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ABSTRACT

These three newsletter issues, published by the Children's Rights Council (CRC), are concerned with the healthy development of children of divorced and separated parents. Feature articles in issue number 1 of this volume are: (1) "Commission to Focus on Custody/Access"; and (2) "Congress to Move on Welfare Reform." Feature articles in issue number 2 are: "House Passes License Revocation as Part of Welfare/Support Bill"; "Some Unhappy with Custody/Access Focus"; (3) 1995 CRC Conferences Draws Wide Support," and (4) President Clinton Sends Message to Vigil." Feature articles in issue number 3 are: (1) "Texas Passes Presumptive Joint Custody: Makes Numerous Other Changes in Law"; "North Dakota Ranks Number 1 [as best state in which to raise children]; and (3) "White House Publishes Memo Supporting Fathers." Regular sections and columns in each issue include "Work & Family," "Family Facts," "Bills and Resolutions in Congress," and "In the Courts." (WJC)

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Strengthening Families Through Education

Winter 1995

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Assisting Children of Separation and Divorce

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SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Children's Rights Council, Inc.
220 "I" Street N.E., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20002-4362 Phone (202)547-6227

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Commission to Focus on Custody/Access

After a contentious three day opening session, the National Commission on Child and Family Welfare has decided to focus on custody and access/visitation issues.

Guidubaldi

Although many members of the commission wanted to focus on issues other than custody/visitation, Commissioners John Guidubaldi and Bill Harrington kept emphasising the purpose of the commission.

The 1992 Hyde/Shelby Bill (Public Law 102-532) gave the commission broad powers to investigate such issues as adoption, abuse, and domestic violence. But in the appropriations bill that provided $250,000 for the Commission, Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI), the main sponsor of the commission, said the body is to "examine child visitation rights of non-custodial parents and other issues that were not addressed by the United States Support Commission."

After the commission decided to emphasize access and custody issues, CRC Georgia coordinator Sonny Burmeister met personally with House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia to urge that Congress find additional funding for the commission to extend beyond one year. Gingrich promised that he would look closely at this request.

Only two members of the Commission are clearly identified with access/visitation issues; researcher John Guidubaldi, Ph.D., Kent State University, Kent OH, and Bill Harrington, president of the American Fathers Coalition, Spokane, WA. Both were appointed by former House Speaker Tom Foley. Guidubaldi is responsible for the largest research conducted in the U.S. on the effects of divorce on children (699 children over a ten-year period).

Some members of the Commission are identified with adoption, domestic violence, social work and psychology. Others are concerned with issues relating to family formation and family preservation.

The Names of the Commissioners

In addition to Guidubaldi and Harrington, the other 13 appointees are: Kathryn Monaghan Ainsworth, Attorney from Portland, ME

Continued on page 4

Congress to Move on Welfare Reform

Welfare Reform is an issue in the new Congress. With Republicans in control of both the House and Senate for the first time in 40 years, welfare reform bills go further than President Clinton's proposal last year. The GOP has proposed measures to get people off welfare and into work within two years. A number of prominent Republicans have suggested that if welfare recipients can not get off welfare in two years, their children should be placed into foster care or adopted. These proponents include Sen. Nancy Kassenbaum (R-KS), Rep. Bill Archer (R-TX), and Sen. John Engler (R-MI).

Continued on page 5

CRC'S NINTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 1995 AT THE HOLIDAY INN, BETHESDA, MARYLAND (the same conference site as in 1993 and 1994). PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.

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SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editor: David L. Levy.

Contributors to this Issue: Michael Pitts, Tod Steward and Derrick Hicks, 1994 college student legislative interns, Heather Anderson (Susquehanna College); Andrea Deatline (Ursinus College); Jeannie Fitzgerald (St. Norbert University); Alexandra Hopko (Lafayette College); Kerry McQuade (Gettysburg College); Vonda Sloderbeck (DePauw University); Christopher Store (Willamette College).

CRC is a member (Number 1513) of

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About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC works to strengthen families through education, favoring family formation and family preservation. If families break up or are never formed, CRC works to assure a child the frequent, meaningful and continuing contact with two parents and extended family which the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and in the event of separation. CRC works to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for comprehensive child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 as the National Council for Children's Rights by concerned parents who have had more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 29 states and four national affiliate organizations: G.R.I.N.S. (Grandparent Rights in New Strengths); Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA), and Parents Without Partners (PWP).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog and services, write: CRC, 220 "I" Street N.E., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20002, or phone (202) 547-6227. Our fax number is (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I was invited to the opening ceremonies in the Fall of 1994 for the beautiful new jail in Arlington County, Virginia, located across the river from Washington, D.C. I think your readers might like to know that the new jail's visiting hours as posted on the jail are: NOTICE: VISITING DAILY 10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

Please note that this is far more "visitation" than almost all non-custodial parents have with their own children, after the divorce decree is handed down by a judge.

Bill Dolan
Arlington, Virginia

CRC Guideline Available

"With the sweeping changes that hit most state legislatures as well as Congress, now is an opportune time to propose acceptance of the CRC Model Child Support Guideline in your state," says CRC Executive Director Michael Pitts. States are currently performing required 4-year reviews of their financial child support guidelines; a requirement of the 1988 federal Family Support Act (see related story below). The CRC guideline, a child-focused cost-shares guideline, was published by the federal government in mid-1994.

Bieniewicz

Don Bieniewicz, the principal author of the guideline, has testified before panels in Maryland and New Jersey and is scheduled to testify before panels in Virginia and other states on the merits of the guideline.

The invitation to testify in Maryland came as a result of the efforts of Harvey Walden, CRC Maryland coordinator, and Al Ellis, a non-custodial parent representative of the Montgomery County Child Support Task Force.

"Research by Sanford Braver, Ph.D., and the Census Bureau show that the amount of involvement of a parent in the child's life is the biggest single predictor of financial child support compliance. This guideline encourages and rewards that involvement," said Bieniewicz.

The guideline is the first to be predicated on the fact that children have two parents, and that both parents have costs associated with raising the children.

To obtain a copy of the Guidelines, call the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center at (202) 401-9383, and ask for a copy of "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation." The Reference Center is located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline are available from the Children's Rights Council for $5.00 for CRC members, and $8.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

If you would like to contact Don Bieniewicz, author of the guideline, for his assistance in getting the guideline adopted in your state, write him at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Financial Child Support May Increase

Financial child support guidelines are most likely to change because of mandated reviews of each state's child support guidelines. "There is little doubt that the guidelines will be raised because of the intense pressure brought to bare by special interest groups," said CRC Executive Director Michael Pitts. "Advocates of higher child support guidelines ignore public and private research that indicates that child well being is not merely a monetary issue. Good parenting and supervision is an essential element of child development." added Pitts. CRC's Model Child Support Guidelines take a "comprehensive child support" approach, encouraging financial child support and parenting time for a child's benefit.

The 1988 Family Support Act (now public law) requires states to review their guidelines every four years. States revising their guidelines have tended to rely on data provided by Dr. Robert G. Williams, Policy Studies, Inc. of Denver, CO.

Dr. Williams uses the Rothbarth economic model and the analysis of Dr. David M. Betson of Notre Dame University to estimate the costs of raising children. Dr. Betson used data from the Consumer Expenditure Survey of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Flawed collection methodology of BLS included polling survey participants for each of three months, asking them to recall what they earned and what they spent on children. Foggy recollections and data-inconsistencies characterized the data-collection, according to William Dolan, a Virginia attorney and child support analyst.

Dolan said that 49% of the data collected was not used by Dr. Betson. The median annual consumption of the average survey participant was $10,000-$15,000, i.e., poor people. Despite credible and widespread criticism of the data, Dr. Williams is using the data for revised child-support guidelines for everyone.

New guidelines will be based on the "finding" that a single-parent household with one, two or three children, spends 35%, 55% or 60% of its total consumption on children. The net result is that parents will be expected to pay child support in that proportion. If you are interested in more information on this, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to William Dolan, 4421 First Road South, Arlington, VA, 22204-1318, citing this article.

If you change your address, please let CRC know. If there is a mailing lable on this newsletter, please send it with your new address

Commission *Continued from page 1*

specializing in family law; Donald R. Bardill, Dean of Florida State University School of Social Work, Tallahassee, FL; Carol Statuto Bevan, Director of public policy of the National Council for Adoption, Washington, DC; Nancy Duff Campbell, Attorney and co-president of the National Women's Law Center, Washington, DC.; Mary Cathcart, former education coordinator for the Spruce Run Association (a battered women's project), and member of the National Council for State Legislators Committee on Child and Family Services, Orono, ME; George Cheek, retired business leader, Spokane, WA; James C. Dobson, founder and president of Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO; Hon. Robert Robles, District Judge for the Third Judicial District, the highest level trial court in Las Cruces, NM. His primary responsibility is for domestic and family law matters; Barbara J. Sabol, President of University Research Corporation, Bethesda, MD, formerly Commissioner of the New York City Human Resources Administration, the nation's largest public welfare agency; James G. Sherman, President and CEO of the Children's Home Association, Peoria, IL; Kaye Theiser, child psychologist in private practice and president of Childworks, Inc., a professional consulting firm in San Francisco, CA, specializing in research and evaluation of child care issues; Marna S. Tucker, Partner at Feldesman, Tucker, Leifer, Fidell and Bank, and a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Washington, DC; Cynthia Gulley Wiedemann, consultant in public relations and marketing, who worked with a battered women's shelter, Dallas, TX.

Under the authorizing language, President Clinton made three appointments; naming Robles, Sabol and Theimer. Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME) made 4 appointments; Ainsworth, Campbell, Cathcart and Tucker. Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) Senate Minority Leader made 2 appointments; Dobson and Wiedemann. Former House Speaker Tom Foley (D-WA) made 4 appointments; Bardill, Creek, Guidubaldi and Harrington. Retiring House Minority Leader Bob Michel (R-IL) made 2 appointments; Bevan and Sherman.

Some of the Commissioners were named as early as August, 1993. The final three Commissioners were not named by President Clinton until October, 1994.

The Commissioners were sworn into office at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at their initial meeting on January 10. The Commission met until January 12. The commission elected Ms. Cathcart as chairman and Judge Robles as vice-chairman.

Anyone wishing to offer opinions, identification of research papers, nomination of potential expert witnesses, etc., can write to: U.S. Commission on Child & Family Welfare, Dept. Of Health & Human Services, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, Washington, D.C. 20047. The commission is expected to hold a combination public hearing and business meeting in March or April, at a location to be announced.

A New Service from CRC!

Nationally Known Distinguished Psychologist Available for Telephone Consultations & Expert Court Testimony

Dr. Israel Lichtenstein, a nationally-known expert in the field of custody and divorce has been enlisted by CRC to provide services to CRC members at a significantly reduced rate! *ONLY FOR MEMBERS!* Dr. Lichtenstein is an experienced and enthusiastic advocate of joint custody/shared parenting and CRC is fortunate to retain his services. **Dr. Lichtenstein can help direct you in these ways:**

1 - Methods that succeed in obtaining your ex-spouse's cooperation to agree to mediation of custody
2 - Formulas for how to create co-parenting plans that really work, addressing specific individual needs
3 - Ways to avoid costly and emotionally painful litigation
4 - Techniques to significantly reduce the cost of your divorce
5 - Methods of protecting your children from the emotional ravages of the divorce process

In addition to telephone consultation with CRC members, Dr. Lichtenstein is able to consult with your attorney or mediator. Whenever necessary, Dr. Lichtenstein can appear in court as a nationally recognized expert, advocating joint custody/shared parenting.

Dr. Lichtenstein is a licensed Psychologist with 19 years of experience in performing psychotherapy, as well as a trained mediator; he is past Co-Chairman of the Ethics Board of the Kentucky Psychological Association, and has been elected to Who's Who among Human Services Professionals. He was a co-author of a joint custody bill in the Ohio Legislature in 1986 and has performed research on the psychological advantages of joint custody for the emotional health of children of divorce.

To learn more about Dr. Lichtenstein's service call his office at 513/221-3545 to arrange a FREE 30 minute phone consultation with Dr. Lichtenstein.

Taking advantage of this Member Service is just one more way that CRC is finding ways to help members live the message that THE BEST PARENT IS BOTH PARENTS!

paid advertisement

WELFARE *Continued from page 1*

Archer is incoming chairman of a House subcommittee that works on welfare and child support issues.

CRC's kinship care proposal (the other parent of the child, grandparents, and other members of the family) should be explored as possible caregivers before turning children over to institutions for placement.

Kinship care is a key component of CRC's Welfare Reform Plan.

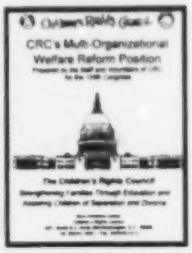
CRC's Welfare Reform Proposal

CRC has developed a Multi-Organizational Welfare Reform Proposal for distribution around the country. Dubbed the "Children's Welfare Reform through Kinship Care Act of 1995" by Capitol Hill staffers, more than two dozen groups have already endorsed the proposal.

The Findings and Purposes of the Act states:

- Welfare programs, originally intended to provide temporary economic sustenance to individuals while they seek to enter the workforce, have fallen short of this goal; this leaves them and their dependent children in poverty;
- The failure to escape poverty persists through generations, as children of welfare families go onto welfare rolls as adults, resulting in needless waste of human potential as well as economic and other costs to society;
- Current welfare provisions lack measures that would assist in the elimination of intergenerational welfare dependence, and encourage such dependency by ignoring the availability
- The proposed Act states that "It is therefore in the public interest to amend the welfare laws to eliminate the encouragement of intergenerational welfare dependency and to promote the placement of children in non-welfare environments more conducive to an economically and socially productive adulthood."

The language of the proposed act would require individuals seeking welfare involving dependent children under age 18 to look to the kinship care network for child placement before welfare eligibility can be determined. A kinship care administrator would have to certify that there are no relatives of the children who are willing and capable to provide for the child's needs before welfare eligibility could be certified. The availability of a family member willing and capable to care for the child can eliminate much of the intergeneration welfare by keeping another generation of children from dependency.



CRS's Executive Director Michael Pitts discusses Welfare Reform with House Speaker Newt Gingrich

The act provides that "An applicant's preference for welfare payments rather than family assistance shall not be a basis for granting welfare eligibility unless the administrator (or agency or other appropriate official) has certified, after making diligent investigation, that family assistance will be detrimental to the safety of the child."

Copies of the two-color, 16 page analysis of the welfare situation, including the "Children's Welfare Reform through Kinship Care Act of 1995", which has been distributed to all members of Congress by CRC, are available for $5.00 to CRC members and $8.00 to non-members..

Funds for Access

The Clinton Welfare Reform/Child Support bill proposed in 1994, would have provided funds for access/visitation programs of $5 million each for the years 1996 and 1997, and $10 million for each succeeding year. The money would enable states to help "absent" parents obtain access/visitation to their children through "mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement (including monitoring, supervision and neutral drop-off and pick-up) and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements."

It is not yet known if Republican proposals will include similar provisions.

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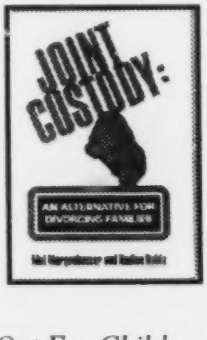

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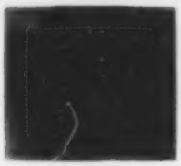

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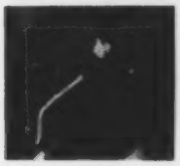

Santorum

Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., Warren Farrell, Ph.D., Karen DeCrow, Esq., Sanford Braver, Ph.D., Richard Gardner, M.D., Philip Stahl, Ph.D., federal child support Director, Hon. David Gray Ross, and White House Assistant Domestic Policy Advisor William A. Galston, Ph.D. are some of the speakers who will highlight CRC's Ninth National Conference March 29 through April 2, 1995. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Bethesda, Maryland, the same site as the 1993 and 1994 conferences.

The CRC conference is cosponsored by the Penn Council for Relationships, a branch of the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine. The Department of Psychiatry is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer Category I Continuing Education for Psychologists. The APA approved sponsor maintains responsibility for the program. 16 C.E. credits will be provided to psychologists.

Richard Sauber, Ph.D., Boca Raton, FL, a long-time supporter of CRC was instrumental in arranging for the affiliation and continuing education accreditation. Continuing education units are also available for conference attendees who are lawyers from the American Bar Association and mediators from the American Academy of Family Mediators.

The conference theme is "Children First." The conference includes a Capitol Hill Symposium, Candlelight Vigil at the Jefferson Memorial (past vigils were held at the Lincoln Memorial), workshops, Book and Author Luncheon and many exhibits.

Representatives Kweisi Mfume (D-MD), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Helen Chenoweth (R-ID), Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), and other elected officials are scheduled to speak at the Capitol Hill Symposium. Mfume has served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Santorum, a former Member of the House, elected to the Senate in November, has taken a balanced approach to family law issues in Congress. Speakers will also include John Guidubaldi, Ph.D. and Bill Harrington, who are newly-appointed commissioners to the Commission on Child and Family Welfare (see page 1 story).

CRC will hold a press conference on the steps of the Capitol on Thursday, March 30 to talk about CRC's support for parenting education as a part of Welfare Reform for 1995.

Varied Topics

Information about some of the speakers and topics:

- Dr. Galston and Director Ross are expected to talk about federal policies in the area of welfare reform, financial child support, and other family law issues. Officials from other countries who work on similar issues have also been invited to speak.
- Sanford Braver, Ph.D., a federally funded researcher who has found that the input a non-custodial parent has in the child's upbringing is the best predictor of financial child support compliance.
- Warren Farrell, author and lecturer, expects to publish a new book on custody in 1995.
- Karen DeCrow, former national president of the National Organization for Women, and a panel will speak on why shared parenting is good for women.
- Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D., has written that joint custody children generally do as well or better than sole custody children.
- Eloise Anderson, Director, California Department of Social Services, will speak at the conference. She has said that the problem in America is that this country sets social policies with "a women's agenda" instead of looking at a comprehensive agenda for children, women and men.

For more information on the conference or a registration form, contact CRC at 220 I Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, phone (202) 547-6227, or fax (202) 546-4272.

Awards Time Again

At its 1995 conference, CRC will present the annual Chief Justice Warren E. Burger awards for "Healers" among lawyers, judges and others, and its annual Media Awards and Active Parenting Awards. The awards consist of engraved plaques. Nominations should be received by February 28, 1995.

A "Healer" might be:

- a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);
- an attorney with a professional track record of promoting a child's access to two parents and others who have bonded with the child.

Continued on page 7

Conference *Continued from page 6*

For Media Awards, possible contenders are:

- best treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage);
- best media coverage of a county agency that provides programs for teenage parents;
- best TV series on fair treatment of abuse and false abuse charges.

For Active Parenting, possible contenders are:

- programs that help with family formation and family preservation;
- programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.

Send **"Healer"** award nominations to:
Vicki Lansky
18326 Minnetonka Blvd.
Deephaven, MN 55391-3200
(612) 475-3527.

Send **"Best in Media"** award nominations to:
James Morning
P.O. Box 182
Bethel, DE 19931
(302) 629-3310

Send **"Active Parenting"** nominations to
Eric Anderson
12103 Scribe Drive
Austin, TX 78759
(512) 836-6621

Win a Sculpture!

Young Man with Sack

Carla Goodwin, who handled "Healer" award nominations for several years, has a medical problem which makes her unable to handle the awards this year. To send a Get Well card, contact Carla Goodwin, 6 Beaver Dam Road, N. Easton, MA 02356, phone 508-238-7392.

A fine sculpture depicting a young man, his belongings slung over his shoulder in a sack upon landing at Ellis Island, has been donated to CRC by the well-known sculptor Phillip Ratner.

The foot-high sculpture is valued at $2,500. Made from the original materials of the Statue of Liberty which were replaced during the structural modifications made several years ago, the sculpture is a limited edition collectible.

CRC is raffling this sculpture and will issue 1,000 tickets. The tickets are available for $3 each, or three for $8. The drawing for the raffle will be at CRC's Ninth National Conference March 29 to April 2, 1995. The winner need not be present to win.

Ellis Island, in New York Harbor, has been extensively restored. As part of the renovation, a park on the island was created to memorialize the immigrants who came to the United States. A number of four-foot high sculptures by Phillip Ratner are on permanent exhibit. **Young Man with a Sack** is a replica of one of these.

Lee Iacocca Letter

The statue comes with a letter of authenticity signed by the chairman of the Ellis Island Restoration Committee, Lee Iacocca.

The carefully crafted Ratner figures allow one to sense the longing, confusion, and of the new immigrants from Europe around the turn of the century.

Ratner divides his year between the U.S. and the Israel Bible Museum, which he founded and heads at Safed, Israel, an artists' town in the Galilee.

This is the second time Ratner has generously donated a statue be raffled at one of our conferences. In 1989 he donated a replica of the sculpture from Ellis Island, "Father and Son" .

If you wish to purchase tickets, please complete the form below.. State how many tickets you want, and remit with your check, Visa or MC number, to Dr. Gary Santora, c/o CRC, 6723 Whittier Avenue, McLean, Virginia 22101, phone (703) 893-6325.

Animal Alphabet

"Animal Alphabet" Also Available

Phillip Ratner is also making available a numbered box set of illustrations called "Animal Alphabet." Each letter of the alphabet is depicted with an animal, such as a Lion with the letter L, or an Owl with the letter O, in such a way that the animal seems to be "part" of the letter. The drawings appeal artistically to adults as well as children. Only 20 of this numbered boxed set are being made available to CRC supporters. The complete set is priced at $250 (a portion of which will be donated to CRC). The value of each set is expected to increase. For a flyer describing the set, contact the CRC office. Or if you wish to place an order, send your remittance to CRC, 220 I Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Please send me ___ (number) raffle tickets at $3.00 apiece, or 3 for $8.00 for the outstanding **Young Man With a Sack** sculpture by Phillip Ratner. I understand only 1,000 tickets are available.
Please also send me a flyer about the "Animal Alphabet".

Your Name _____

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AROUND THE COUNTRY

Race, Marriage and Crime

Many Americans believe crime is a matter of black and white; blacks disproportionately commit crimes, whites do not. Others say the roots of crime are economic; poor people commit crimes, wealthier people do not. Still others say that crime is simply a matter of location, location, location; city dwellers are more predisposed to criminality than suburbanites or country folk, regardless of their color or relative financial status.

"They are all wrong", argues Patrick F. Fagan, a researcher at the Heritage Foundation, in a recent review of academic studies into the causes of crime. He concludes that birth outside marriage has emerged as the single most important factor fueling crime. More daddies married to mommies--and not more prisons or cops or so-called 'third strikes'--is the solution to the nation's crime problem.

"The raw data seems to suggest that race is a major factor in crime rates," wrote Fagan. "However, when one factors-in family structure it turns out that the absence of marriage, not race, is the most important factor in explaining differing crime rates. The rise in crime, in other words, is tied to the disintegration of marriage... The widespread popular assumption that there is an association between race and crime is false."

Fagan

Nor does poverty necessarily breed criminality. It may actually have the opposite effect. Fagan cited a study in 1988 by criminologists Douglas Smith and Roger Jarjoura (See "Speak Out for Children" Winter 1993/94), which suggests "not only that poverty does not explain the incidence of crime, but also that it actually appears to have a negative effect on crime." The study suggests that the poor are less likely than others to commit crime when factors such as family structure are taken into account.

Fagan also cited recent research by sociologist June O'Neill of the City University of New York, who found that "young black men raised in single-parent families were twice as likely to engage in criminal activities, when compared with black men raised in two-parent families, even after holding constant a wide range of variables such as family income, urban residence, neighborhood environment and parents' education." He concluded that growing up in a single-family household "triples the possibility that a young black man will engage in criminal activity ."

Researchers have also found that illegitimacy is an equal-opportunity scourge, affecting blacks and whites. "The absence of marriage, and the failure to form and maintain intact families, explains the incidence of high crime in a neighborhood among whites as well as blacks," Fagan noted.

(Reprinted from The Washington Post Outlook Section, July 10, 1994).

Fatherhood Conference

Restoring the culture of fatherhood was the theme of the National Summit on Fatherhood held in Dallas, Texas, October 26-28, 1994. Custody reform advocates, including about 15 CRC members, were among the 300 participants at the 2-day conference organized by the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), New York City. The organizers of the conference included David Blankenhorn, chairman of the NFI board, and Wade Horn, an NFI director, who headed the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President Bush.

Conference speakers included Vice President Albert Gore, syndicated columnist William Raspberry, former Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan, and researcher Michael Lamb, Ph.D. Gore insisted that "fathers are leaving their wives, abandoning their children, and are financial and emotional deadbeats".

Raspberry said that although some fathers are irresponsible, the vast majority are not "abandoning" their families as much as they are being "driven-away and thrown-away parents". He explained that it is not enough to require financial paternity establishment; it is also crucial to protect the father's relationship with his child. Blankenhorn said that although some fathers are irresponsible, there are also many driven-away parents, and we must look at both issues.

Eloise Anderson, Director of Social Services for the State of California, said that the problem is that America sets social policies with "a women's agenda" instead of looking at a comprehensive agenda for children, men and women.

The emphasis at the conference was on the need for family.

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IN THE COURTS

Costs of "Counter-Abduction"

A father who took his children to Algeria after his wife initiated divorce proceedings was properly ordered to pay the $147,252 costs the wife incurred in hiring a firm to "counter-abduct" the children, the Minnesota Court of Appeals held. The Appeals Court said that the mother had tried all other avenues to have the children returned to her. It did not encourage this form of "self-help." The court rejected the father's argument that he had taken the children before an action for custody or visitation had commenced. One judge dissented, noting that, because of interest payments, the debt would continually grow larger, and the father could never pay it off--a situation "akin to the indenture practice in ancient times." (Minnesota v. Maidi; Minn CtApp, No. C9-93-1955, 8/2/94).

Counseling Records

The Washington Court of Appeals ruled that a mother's admission of alcohol problems during joint custody sessions could be used in a custody dispute, and was not a breach of the psychologist-patient relationship. The Appeals Court said the joint nature of the counseling session was decisive. The court noted that the therapist was free also to discuss the father's comments in support of the mother's bid for custody. (Redding. v. Virginia Mason Medical Center; Wash CtApp. No. 33961-3-1, 8/15/94).

Joint Custody and Child Support

A trial court could refuse to reduce a father's child support obligation even though he met state support guidelines on shared physical custody, the Wyoming Supreme Court held. The Supreme Court held that, although the father had the children for more than the 25 percent threshold amount of time, he made no contribution to their expenses beyond paying child support. The court said he provided no evidence that his food, heating, or utility expenses were higher when the children were living with him. (Cranston v. Cranston; Wyo SupCt, No. 93-188, 8/18/94).

Illness and Child Support

The Iowa Court of Appeals has ruled that a father's illness and subsequent loss of his job and incurrence of significant medical expenses constituted a material change in circumstances justifying modification of his child support obligation. The father suffered from Epstein-Barre syndrome. The mother argued that the father's illness was not a permanent condition. However, the Appeals Court took the view that the father might take five years to recover, and that he might then be too old to re-enter the job market. (In re Cooper; Iowa CtApp, No. 4-192/92-755, 8/25/94).

Support by the Non-Father

The Massachusetts Appeals Court has ruled in an action for child support that a man may raise the defense that he is not the father of his wife's child. The case involved a man who, although he was not the father of a child born three years after his marriage, undertook to act as the father. The Appeals Court referred to an earlier case enunciating the principle that a married man "should have no duty to support a child born to his wife during their marriage but fathered by another man, any more than a wife should have a duty to support a child fathered by her husband during their marriage but born of another woman." The only issue, the Appeals Court said, was whether it should apply the legal principle of estoppel (which bars individuals from denying the truth of something they have previously asserted). Courts have rejected application of estoppel in most (though not all) cases of this nature and ruled that estoppel should not apply. (K.B. v. D.B.; Mass AppCt, 37 Mass. App.Ct. 265, 9/9/94).

Indemnification for Child Support

Although a mother had agreed to indemnify a father from child support, in return for receiving the father's $40,000 equity in their former marital home, the father could not enforce this agreement, the Virginia Supreme Court held. The Supreme Court ruled that children are entitled to child support from both parents, and any contract that purports to infringe on this right is void. The court upheld the trial court's decision that the husband must pay support and denied his motion for reimbursement from the wife. (Kelley v. Kelley; Va SupCt, No. 931522, 9/16/94).

Visitation Conditions

The Iowa Court of Appeals has held that a mother may not veto the father's decisions about whom the children may associate with while they are with him. The Court was considering a situation where the mother wanted to prevent the father, who had joint custody, from allowing the children to have contacts with the maternal grandparents (from whom she was estranged) during the time they were with him. Visitation should not be subject to conditions, unless there is a danger of physical or emotional damage to the children or to the parents, the court said. (In re Rykhoek; Iowa CtApp. No. 4-079/93-949, 9/16/94).

The above cases are summarized from the Family Law Reporter. They appear here by permission of the publisher, the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

Bills and Resolutions in Congress

Every two years there is a new Congressional session in Washington. This is because House members are elected for two years. One third of the Senate is up for election every two years. Any bills which did not pass in the two year session that ended in December, 1994, are "dead" and must be re-introduced in the new Congress to be considered for action. The 104th Congress opens for business on January 7, 1995. All bills introduced in the new Congress will have new numbers. Bills introduced in the Senate are known as S.-- (number). Bills introduced in the House are known as H.R.-- (number).

See past issues of the CRC newsletter for information on various bills, a number of which may be introduced in the new Congress.

A bill, unlike a resolution, requires a state or person to do something. A resolution expresses the wishes of Congress, but does not require action. It is important to let your Representative and Senators know your views. Write to the address given in the story on Welfare Reform (above).

The Capitol switchboard will provide names, addresses and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress. The 24-hour number is (202) 224-3121. During normal business hours, the switchboard can connect you with any Congressional office on Capitol Hill. You can also contact your Congressmember's local office in your area of the country.

Schroeder Bill

H.R. 3694 was introduced by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) to garnish retirement pay of federal employees for child abuse payments. At a hearing on July 12, 1994, CRC testified that Congress should not pass the bill unless it were also applied to an attachment of retirement pay to collect judgments based on false allegations of abuse, and perhaps other torts as well. The bill became law but it did not include the "false abuse" provision.

Visitation Provisions Improved

The provision of the Wellstone/Sabo bill which would have only allowed domestic violence shelters to run visitation centers for child drop-off and pick-up was changed when incorporated into the crime bill passed by Congress in 1994. The change permits those who can qualify to run supervised visitation centers and is not restricted to domestic violence shelters as in the original Wellstone/Sabo bill.

The crime bill states that supervised visitation is one of 14 programs which will vie for $90 million in funds over the next several years.

CRC worked with other groups to obtain the neutral language in the bill. We thank the many people who wrote letters to their members of Congress urging a neutral approach to access/visitation.

There are prevention programs in the crime bill involving mentoring, tutoring, etc. which your group might qualify for, in addition to running supervised visitation and neutral drop-off and pick-up centers.

The crime bill also includes a grant to a nonprofit organization to establish and operate a national domestic violence hot line. We urge groups which provide advice to both female and male victims of domestic violence to apply for the grant. Again, first obtain a copy of the crime bill. Then contact your member of Congress for help in how to apply for the grant.

Call the local office of your Congressmember and ask for a copy of the crime bill, or send $3.00 for postage and handling to CRC.

Keep in mind that the new congress may decide not to fund some of these prevention programs.

False Reporting

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which was originally passed by Congress in 1974, and was due for re-authorization in 1995, is expected to be phased out. Instead, the Republican majority in Congress is expected, now that each state has its own child abuse reporting law, to allow states to modify their child abuse reporting laws as they see fit.

If a state wants to remove the complete immunity granted to social workers and other child abuse investigators granted under CAPTA, it would be able to do so, according to Congressional sources. If a state wants to pass a law providing for the prosecution of a person who makes a report of child abuse or neglect without having a reasonable belief that the report is true, the state could do that also if CAPTA is not re-authorized, according to the Congressional sources.

Hearings will be held by a House of Representatives Committee headed by Rep. Charles Goodling (R-PA), to decide whether CAPTA should be re-authorized.

Goodling

For more information, contact the House Committee on Education and Labor, (202) 225-5836.

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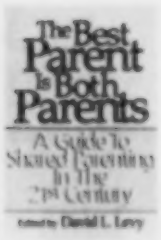
Book Review Features CRC Book



The Best Parent is Both Parents, is a "must-read" for any parent contemplating divorce or involved in divorce proceedings, said a review in the Free Lance-Star of Fredericksburg, VA.

"All of us know cases where divorce has ripped open the hearts of families and left the children as victims. This well-researched collection of essays can definitely help families cope with a multitude of divorce-related problems," wrote Marilyn Holasek Lloyd. "Family counselors and lawyers can benefit from this book as well. After all, children also have the right to the 'pursuit of happiness' through a 'wholesome' loving family, even if their parents live apart."

The Best Parent is Both Parents offers tips to parents and professionals on how to maintain involvement by both parents in the event of divorce. The price of the 157-page book is $9.95. Ask a local bookstore for the book; or order from CRC. For orders from CRC, add $3.00 for postage and handling. Book orders for CRC should be addressed to CRC, 220 I Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Pitts Named CRC Executive Director

T. Michael Pitts, who previously headed CRC's Boston Chapter, has been named CRC's first Executive Director. Pitts moved to Washington, D.C. to oversee CRC's operations. "Michael brings valuable experience as an administrator, fund-raiser, and policy analyst" said CRC President David Levy. Pitts has significant previous political experience in Washington. In 1994, Pitts was a speaker at the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) Annual Conference and has appeared many times on national television and radio programs. Pitts recently testified before the full House Ways and Means Committee which was carried on C-SPAN and has testified before other state and local policymaking bodies for CRC. Pitts was appointed at the recommendation of CRC General Counsel Michael Oddenino. Pitts assumed his new role in early September 1994.

Sen. Thompson is New Advisor to CRC

Thompson

Senator Fred Thompson has become a CRC Advisor at the behest of CRC Executive Director Michael Pitts. Thompson gave the Republican response to President Clinton following Clinton's nationally-televised December, 1994 speech in which he proposed a Middle-Class tax cut. Thompson is also well known for his movie career, having appeared with Clint Eastwood in the movie "In the Line of Fire", with Alec Baldwin in "Hunt for Red October", and with Bruce Willis in "Diehard II." Thompson served as Republican counsel during the Watergate hearings where his questioning exposed the secret White House taping system under President Nixon. Thompson told Pitts that he would be "honored" to be an advisor to CRC. He said that he and his staff are "looking forward to working with CRC in the years to come".

Unseld is Parenting Education Spokesperson

Unseld

Wes Unseld, Vice-President of the NBA's Washington Bullets, has become as a Spokesperson for Parenting Education for the Children's Rights Council. Unseld is a NBA Hall of Fame member, having played for the Washington Bullets in the late 1960's and 1970's, leading the Bullets to an NBA Championship in 1978. Unseld's involvement with CRC grew out of a meeting with Washington Bullets and Washington Capitols (hockey) owner and noted philanthropist Abe Pollin. "Wes Unseld is an accomplished and hard working executive who brings leadership, drive and compassion to CRC as a Spokesperson," said CRC Executive Director Michael Pitts.. "Mr. Unseld, recently mentioned by Washingtonian Magazine as one of 1994's Top Ten Washingtonians, shows the importance of a commitment to children and community service," added Pitts. "Elizabeth Hickey, who is CRC's national parenting education director, will work with the many CRC activists who are interested in parenting education programs to help families across America."

Grant is new CRC Spokesperson

Grant

Darryl Grant, member of the Washington Redskins' Superbowl XVII and XXII (1982 and 1987) Championship Teams, has become a national spokesperson for CRC. CRC Legislative Assistant, Derrick Hicks, recruited Grant as a spokesperson for CRC. "Darryl Grant has long been interested in CRC's issues. He will help CRC reach out to inner city youth, as well as help with fundraising," said Hicks.

CRC Chapter News

Florida

Banana Splits Program

The Southeast Florida chapter has convinced 6 elementary, middle, and high schools in Palm Beach County to implement the Banana Splits program. The program is designed to help children cope with their parents' divorce. Chapter leader Howard Lemell worked with Banana Splits founder Elizabeth McGonagle to promote the program.

Lemell has also received donations of office space, plumbing and electrical services to equip an office for his CRC chapter. He finds that local businessmen and women affected by divorce are particularly willing to donate equipment and services. "They only need to be asked," he suggests.

Georgia

Voters Approve Family Court System

Georgia voters have approved a Constitutional Amendment for the creation of a five-year project to implement a family court system in the state. This is a direct result of CRC advocacy, says CRC Georgia Coordinator Sonny Burmeister. "When we started talking about the need for a family court three years ago, judges, attorneys and politicians laughed at us," said Burmeister. But as a result of voter approval in the November 8, 1994 election, "The Georgia legislature will have to decide in early 1995 the number of family courts to be established in the state, and how much money is to be provided for them."

Indiana

Court System Criticized; 17 Changes Proposed

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) that said Indianapolis's court system was "among the most fractured in the country," according to Indiana CRC Coordinator David Dinn. Dinn said that initially the local domestic courts tried to hide the report. Besides scathing criticisms on several counts, the report made 17 recommendations, including:

- the use of mandatory mediation and settlement conferences;
- consistent rules and forms;
- staffing with people who have empathy for, and experience in, family issues;
- promotion of conciliation rather than litigation; and,
- adoption of a true, unified family court system.

The report resulted in front page headlines in The Indianapolis Star. Dinn subsequently referred to the judges' action as "hidden report-gate." NCSC is "the most prestigious national court study organization and with their credibility, their thoughts should be well received by judicial systems throughout the country," said Dinn.

To obtain a copy for distribution, write to NCSC, 300 Newport Ave., Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798. Ask for Marion County, Indiana Domestic Relations.

Minnesota

Access Strengthened

During the last state legislative session, CRC of Minnesota member Laurie Hassinger wrote a piece of legislation that became law. Adding a thirteenth criterion for defining the best interests of children in custody determinations, Minnesota now prefers the parent most likely to support a child's access to the other parent. Anecdotal evidence pertaining to the change includes a father convinced that he received more liberal access than he otherwise would have and a judge who reminded a parent to cooperate lest the new criterion be used against her.

State coordinator Bruce Kaskubar ran for the state Senate in an extraordinary two-week race precipitated by the sitting senator's resignation. He did not survive a primary of thirteen candidates.

Nebraska

Governor Calls

On October 23, 1994, Children's Rights Council members Brenda and Michael Kaiser were featured on KOLN-TV, Lincoln, NE. The Kaisers displayed photos of Michael's young daughter who lives out-of-state. The show emphasized the positive effects of two-parent involvement with children from divorce and single-family homes. The feature evoked many calls, including one from Nebraska Governor, Ben Nelson.

Pennsylvania

Divorce Counseling

Judges in Butler County, PA are referring couples in custody disputes to divorce counselor Kathryn Gibson for classes in conflict resolution and communications coaching. Gibson is Pennsylvania's CRC coordinator. She reports that the divorcing parents attend 2 to 4 hours of sessions, and that almost all the parents are responding positively to the classes. The classes teach skills on how to talk productively with their ex-spouses and how to solve, rather than create, problems.

Vermont

Parentage Includes Custody and Access Rights

Vermont's Secretary of Human Services, Con Hogan, introduced language that connotes parentage as a three part process, involving financial, custody, and access/visitation. The legislation has been recommended for adoption. In the report to the Vermont legislature entitled "Recommendations for Improving Child Support in Vermont: Eliminate Barriers and Provide Inducements" (currently in draft form), Hogan recommends "As part of

Inside CRC (continued)

the in-hospital acknowledgment of the parentage process (at the time of the baby's birth), the Family Court and the Office of Child Support should make materials available to parents that will encourage them to resolve as many parenting issues as possible during the acknowledgment of the parentage process. Additionally, the Office of Child Support should look into promoting acknowledgment of parentage and agreements and other parental rights and responsibilities prior to birth." The report says the purpose is to "establish an early bond between fathers and their out-of-wedlock children." The report adopts the word parentage and the mutual rights & responsibilities recommended by Laurie Casey, CRC Senior Policy Analyst. Hogan received a "Healer" award from CRC in 1994.

VIRGINIA
Appointees to Guideline Review Panel

Cindy Ewing has been appointed to the Virginia Child Support Advisory Committee. Ewing is Virginia's CRC Coordinator. The Committee will review the state's child support guidelines and later address enforcement issues.

The 1988 Family Support Act (now public law) requires each state to review its financial child support guidelines every four years.

Murray Steinberg, a long-time child custody reform activist and head of the Family Resolution Council has also been appointed to the Commission. The Family Resolution Council promotes and provides mediation services to families in crisis. Steinberg has also been appointed to Governor George Allen's Welfare Reform Initiative task force.

CRC Executive Director Michael Pitts resigned on February 6, 1995 to accept another position elsewhere.

ERIC Accepts CRC

ERIC has accepted a substantial amount of CRC material for inclusion in its data base. ERIC is the national education information system which collects and disseminates published and unpublished resources on education and children's issues. Policymakers, researchers, and media logged more than one million hours of connect time to the ERIC data base in 1993. The ERIC Clearinghouses, which operate in various areas of expertise in education, also responded to 175,000 questions from the general public in 1993. The CRC book "The Best Parent is Both Parents," conference proceedings booklets from several CRC conferences, and other CRC materials can be found in ERIC's Resources in Education (RIE). ERIC can be accessed through many library systems over the Internet and through commercial on-line systems. CRC materials can be found in ERIC's Resources in Education (RIE). Contact ERIC at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 805 West Pennsylvania Ave, Urbana, IL 61801, phone 217-333-1386 or 1-800-583-4135, fax 217-333-3767, (e-mail ericeece@uxl.cso.uiuc.edu).

Intellectual Property Services

Charlie Ruggiero offers intellectual property services. He obtained trademark protection for CRC and is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley and Ruggiero, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, phone (203) 327-6067.

Insurance for your Child

A whole life insurance policy can help secure you and your child's future. Unlike term insurance, which can provide for your child or other survivor upon your death, whole life builds up a "cash value" which can be used for any major expense, including college education. Information on whole life insurance is offered as a benefit to CRC membership. For further information, contact Ted Knight, New York Life Insurance Company, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Suite 900, Falls Church, VA 22041, phone 703-532-2210. Mr. Knight has worked with CRC parents and grandparents to help secure the financial futures of their children and grandchildren. See article in "Speak Out for Children", Spring 1994 issue.

Media Coverage

CRC has been quoted in dozens of newspapers, and on radio stations and TV within the past several months on custody cases that arose in Illinois, Michigan, Florida, and Washington, D.C. CRC personnel have been quoted on such subjects as mediation and welfare reform. CRC President David L. Levy wrote a guest column in USA Today on July 17, 1994; and was quoted on the front page of the New York Times and in the New York Times "Week in Review" column in September, 1994.

In November, 1994, Levy spoke at the National Organization of Women Legislators Conference in Boca Raton, Florida. Earlier, in October, Levy spoke at the Western Interstate Child Support Enforcement Conference in Seattle, WA, and at the annual dinner sponsored by CRC's Ohio chapter in Toledo, attracting local media coverage.

CRC Executive Director Michael Pitts was a speaker at the National Child Support Enforcement Association Annual Conference in Boston in August, 1994. Pitts also spoke at the Conservative Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. in December, 1994. He has been a guest on a national NBC radio program on welfare reform, and was quoted by the AP and the London Times.

PWP Becomes National Affiliate

Napolitano

Parents Without Partners has affiliated with the Children's Rights Council. With PWP's affiliate members in the U.S. and Canada, CRC now has more than 110,000 members in its national and affiliate organizations. PWP helps single parents feel comfortable in their role by providing social, educational, and recreational activities for parents and children. "We want to see children grow up with the same advantages of children who have both parents living at home, so we encourage parental wellness. This helps children better cope with their situation, whether it be through divorce, separation, or death of a parent," said PWP's President Linda Napolitano. "In most cases, children should have frequent contact with both of their parents," she added. "CRC is delighted with this affiliation, because it may help more children" said CRC President David L. Levy.

Levy said the affiliation was largely due to the hard work of Sheila Sands, CRC coordinator in Massachusetts, who is also PWP's membership director, George Kelly, a past international director, and Frank Anderson, PWP's Legislative Director. "We speak with a stronger voice as a result of this affiliation between PWP and CRC," said Anderson.

PWP's board voted in August to affiliate. Following the vote, Anderson flew to Washington, where he, Levy, and Edna Skiados of PWP's Virginia chapter, met with Marianne Rufty, of the Administration for Children and Families in the HHS to discuss the needs of children and parents. Rufty has subsequently been named administrator for the National Commission on Children and Families (see page 1 story).

PWP is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. As the head of a national affiliate organization of CRC, Ms. Napolitano has accepted as an advisor to CRC. CRC has also affiliated with PWP.

PWP members may join CRC at the reduced rate of $20.00 a year. CRC members may join PWP at the local chapter rate.

Meyer Elkin Dies

Meyer Elkin, a co-founder of the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts (AFCC), and a long-time CRC advisor, died in March, 1994 at his home in Beverly Hills, CA.

"Elkin was the father of the conciliation movement that has now evolved into mediation in more than 40 states and in many foreign countries," said Hugh McIsaac, director of Family Court Services, Multnomah County, Oregon.

Nat Denman Dies

Nat Denman, a long-time leader in the pro-se litigation area for domestic relations, died in October, 1994 at his home in Falmouth, MA.

Denman, 72, was featured on "60 Minutes" in 1986 for his work in teaching thousands of parents how to go to court pro-se (for themselves) without a lawyer to fight for themselves and their children.

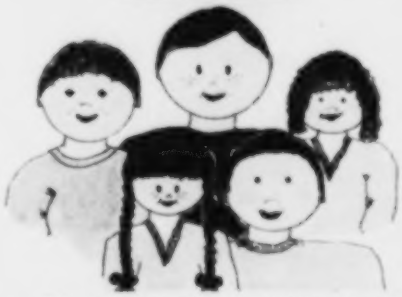
Noted attorney Alan Dershowitz was among those who praised Denman for his legal abilities on the "60 Minutes" report.

Thanks to Contributors

CRC thanks everyone who contributed to CRC in last fall's nation-wide charity drive. CRC was listed as Number 1513 in the Children's Charities of America listing, which is part of the Independent Charities of America (ICA).

We also thank all those who have contributed to CRC through Global Focus credit card, which is managed by MBNA America, the same bank that handles the CRC credit card.

Blended Family Cards Hit the Mark



"Even the folks at Hallmark, the greeting card gurus, have yet to tackle the topic of divorce on a grand scale. Sheila Brayman-Borgese, president of SBB Ink in New Jersey, saw that niche and nestled into it," says an article in Central New Jersey Business newspapers, Nov. 16-30, 1994. "SBB Ink sells a new line of greeting cards for such non-traditional relationships as the step parent-child, siblings, grandparents and divorced couples and their families. The brightly-colored cards, usually featuring pictures of people on their covers, are inscribed with such messages as "Combining our families takes love, patience and understanding; Marriages made us 'in-laws':...but divorce doesn't make us 'out laws.'"

Brayman-Borgese, who started "Blended Families", is a mother, stepmother, and former National President of Mothers Without Custody. She has been an advisor to CRC, and is donating a portion of her sales to CRC.

The cards may be ordered from Brayman-Borgese by writing to her at 49 Ellsworth Ave, West Windsor, New Jersey 08691, Phone (609) 936-0204.

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

If you would like to consider leaving a bequest or property in your will, please let CRC know of your generosity.

Contact your accountant or tax advisor on the best way to structure any such bequest.

Chapters Exist in 29 States

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody law and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

If you would like to learn if a chapter is forming in your state, write or call CRC. If you would like to form a chapter in your own state or community west of the Mississippi, write to Eric Anderson in Texas, address below. For chapter formation in states east of the Mississippi, write to Michael Ewing in Virginia, address below.

Ask Messrs. Ewing or Anderson for a copy of the 37-page booklet that explains everything you want to know about affilaition. Enclose $10.00 for photocopying and postage.

Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MWOC)
P.O. Box 27417
Houston, TX 77227-7418
Jennifer Isham, President
(800) 457-MWOC
Joint membership in MWOC and CRC: $35.00 a year

Parents Without Partners
401 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
312-644-6610
Members of PWP join CRC for only $20.00 a year.

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
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Lincoln, Nebraska 68505
(402) 477-7837
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0689 CR. 5
Corunna, Indiana 46730
(219) 281-2384
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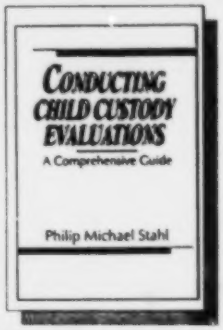

New!

CONDUCTING CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS

A Comprehensive Guide

by PHILIP MICHAEL STAHL,
Psychologist in Private Practice,
Dublin, California

Conducting Child Custody Evaluations presents a detailed examination of the many complex questions and issues involved in this process. Practical guidelines for completing evaluations are provided, including helpful information on interviewing parents and children, testifying in court, writing custody evaluations, working with attorneys, getting paid, and working in an ethical manner. Such fundamental concerns relating to divorce as the ability to parent, bonding and attachment of children and parents, the formulation of custody/access plans, and specific developmental issues are also addressed.

*"**Conducting Child Custody Evaluations** . . . is excellent. What makes this text so valuable is it is born of years of experience and reflects a more advanced vision about families following divorce. Both beginning and advanced evaluators will gain a great deal from reading this manual. It is both comprehensive and practical, capturing the essence and the spirit of performing this critical task. Even more importantly, it has several ideas about how evaluations can stay current and captures the value of a good evaluation on families, as well as the court. Nice work!"*

—Hugh McIsaac,
Director, Family Court Services, Multnomah City Circuit Court, Portland, Oregon, and Editor, Family and Conciliation Courts Review

1994 (Summer) / 260 pages / $23.95 (p) (48212)

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CONDUCTING CHILD CUSTODY EVALUATIONS will also be available at the upcoming meeting, March 29 - April 2, in Bethesda, Maryland

Protocols for Sex-Abuse Evaluation

Richard A. Gardner, M.D.

Since the early 1980s, Dr. Richard A. Gardner has been developing criteria for differentiating between true and false sex-abuse accusations. Over the years he has noted that there was no good protocol for conducting such evaluations. Psychiatrists, in accordance with their training, tend to focus on background history, the mental status, and data necessary for a diagnosis. Most often, all this information is of little probative value in a sex-abuse accusation. Furthermore, few protocols are available, protocols specifically designed to enable examiners to differentiate between true and false accusations.

It was from these observations that Dr. Gardner devised a series of protocols which, he believes, should prove useful for examiners involved in these important and demanding evaluations. The protocols do not simply present his differentiating criteria, some of which have already been published. Rather, they incorporate the criteria into a protocol that delineates clearly the interview sequences that should be followed in the context of which these criteria are applied. Furthermore, he provides throughout specific questions that should enhance immeasurably the utilization of the protocols. Six separate evaluative protocols are provided. 1 - The Alleged Child Victim 2 - The Male Alleged Perpetrator 3 - The Female Alleged Perpetrator 4 - The Accuser, When the Accused is a Family Member 5 - The Accuser, When the Accused is not a Family Member 6 - The Adult Female Belated Accuser/Victim.

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House Passes License Revocation as Part of Welfare/Support Bill

Rep. Archer

The House of Representatives has passed a Welfare Reform bill that provides block grants to the states to replace current federal programs for poor families. The bill, now being considered by the Senate, is designed to encourage work and marriage, and to discourage out-of-wedlock births.

States are required under Title 7 of the bill to enact laws that would enable them to suspend driver's licenses, professional licenses, occupational licenses, and recreational licenses of anyone who owes support.

States are also required to establish procedures requiring the fathers of children receiving welfare to either pay past due child support or be required to participate in work programs.

The provisions in current law to ensure that children are covered by the health insurance of non-resident parents are strengthened.

The bill also establishes, in Section 469A, a grant program in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to facilitate the visitation rights of nonresidential parents.

The program would provide funding for state programs for "mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement (including monitoring, supervision and neutral drop-off and pickup) and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements."

Only about $7.5 million could be spent over three years by the states, which is less than .4 percent of the $2 billion annual federal child support budget.

The bill also contains child support provisions to increase automation, exchange of

Continued on page 3

Some Unhappy With Custody/Access Focus

Although the National Commission on Child and Family Welfare decided to focus on custody and access/visitation issues at its initial meeting in January, some members of the Commission are unhappy with that decision and are trying to divert the Commission from its agenda. So say CRC observers of the Commission hearings in Alexandria, Virginia, and Cleveland, Ohio.

Some members of the Commission are raising objections to shared parenting based on the following:

the effect of parental conflict at the time of the divorce, the presumed inability of children to make the transition from one household to another, and research findings on joint custody (shared parenting).

1) As to conflict, Commissioners such as John Guidubaldi, Ph.D., one of the leading custody researchers in the U.S., have emphasized in response to comments at the hearings, that almost all families experience conflict at the time of divorce.

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"SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN" is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editor: David L. Levy.

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CRC is a member (Number 1513) of

CHILDREN'S CHARITIES of AMERICA

About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and in the event of separation. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for comprehensive child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 29 states and three national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), Parents Without Partners (PWP), and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog and services, write: CRC, 220 "I" Street N.E., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20002, or phone (202) 547-6227. Our fax number is (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

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Stepfamily Association of America
Lincoln, Nebraska

House Passes Welfare/Support Bill

Continued from page 1

information through the Federal Parent Locator Service, and recordation of new hires by companies with social security numbers to be provided to national registries.

However, there is no provision that would allow termination reporting to serve as "notice" for possible adjustment of child support. At present, federal law prohibits state courts from retroactively modifying a child support order. However, a court may modify child support from the date a court notice is filed, even though the actual hearing isn't held until much later. A termination provision could allow loss of a job to serve as "notice" so that a court could modify an order from the date the person lost the job. The theory is that the loss of a job through no fault should constitute a material change of circumstances to allow modification of a support order.

The bill also expands the application of child support laws to all Federal employees, including members of the Armed Forces, subjecting them to wage withholding and other enforcement measures. A centralized personnel locator service would also be set up for all members of the Armed Forces who owe child support.

States must also pass the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) by January 1, 1997.

(Don Chavez, a member of the former National Child Support Commission, expressed concern at the time UIFSA was being debated by the Commission that if a non-custodial parent in State A with jurisdiction over the divorce helps a child pack for a "visit" with the custodial parent in state B, and then the custodial parent seeks to change custody to State B where the custodial parent lives, that act by the non-custodial parent could be interpreted under UIFSA as "agreement" to custody being changed to State B. This argument helped defeat the passage of UIFSA in the Maryland legislature in 1995).

Congressman Bill Archer (R-TX), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, held hearings on the bill, at which CRC Policy Analyst Cindy Ewing testified before the bill passed the House.

"Kinship Care" Passes in House

The House Welfare Reform bill also contains a "Kinship Care" provision that CRC supports. Introduced by Rep. Ron Wyden (D-OR), the provision provides that "adult relatives" of children are the "preferred placement" option of children who are separated from their parents.

Although this could apply in "worst case scenarios"—child abuse and neglect cases, where adult relatives could provide an alternative to foster care—kinship care could also apply as a "prevention program" whereby adult relatives would be eligible to take care of the child as an alternative to a parent going on welfare.

The concept of a preventive "kinship care" network became familiar to members of Congress after countless hours of discussion and written suggestions for amendments provided by CRC and Kellie McCrery, a CRC intern and Congressional liaison for CRC.

Rep. Wyden

Rep. J. C. Watts (R-OK) issued a statement of support for kinship care which appears in the Congressional Record March 22, 1995, at Pages H3525-27).

CRC seeks to expand upon the Wyden amendment in the Senate version of the Welfare Reform bill. The use of kinship care would not relieve the child's parents of their obligations nor would it impose new obligations on other relatives. Only voluntary kinship assistance would be considered.

Examples:

* Brother is willing to care for child of drug abuser with or without change of custody/guardianship. Welfare dependency is not in the best interests of the child and eligibility should be denied based upon available and willing kinship care.

* Father of child is willing to provide child care with or without a change of custody while mother works. Welfare dependencey is not in the best interests of the child and eligibility should be denied based upon available and willing kinship care.

* Adolescent mother lives with her parents. The parents have a legal obligation to support their adolescent daughter and are willing to care for grandchild while daughter completes school or works. Welfare dependency is not in the best interests of the child and eligibility should be denied based upon available and willing kinship care.

Write to Senators

CRC members are urged to write a postcard or letter to their Senators, and ask that kinship care be passed as part of the Senate Welfare Reform bill.

Write as follows:

Senator —
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Please pass "kinship care" as part of the Welfare Reform bill in the Senate. Kinship care, which means that family members should be preferred as an alternative to welfare for child placement, is already part of the House-passed Welfare Reform bill. We urge the Senate to pass a similar kinship care provision.

Sincerely yours
Your name and address

Send a copy of your letter or postcard to CRC.

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CRC HAS CANCELLED the planned Big Red Boat trip to the Caribbean because of insufficient registrations, but if you might be interested in a trip to either Israel or Las Vegas in 1996, let CRC know.

Welfare/Support Bill

Continued from page 3

CRC Response to Welfare/Support Bill

In his new book "Fatherless America," David Blankenhorn demonstrates that father-absence is the primary causal factor behind women's and children's poverty, crime, illegitimacy, gang involvement, drug abuse and many other serious national problems. He shows the necessity for father presence to be restored if America truly desires to improve the futures of women, children and the larger society. There is also a substantial amount of mother-absence and extended family-absence. Yet by an expenditure ratio of 99.6 percent to .4 percent (see page 1), the Welfare Reform/Child Support bill is based on the assumption that if only non-custodial parents (85% of whom are men, but 15% of whom are women) will pay more child support, the problems will be solved.

In the first organized show of skepticism that the "money only" approach is working, 17 Republican members of the Human Resources Subcommittee of House Ways and Means Committee that considered the bill voted against requiring states to suspend licenses of delinquent obligors. On the other hand, 17 members, mostly Democrats, voted in favor of the measure, with the result that the tie vote temporarily killed the proposal.

Not about to give up, Rep. Marge Roukema (R-NJ) later introduced an amendment on the House floor to require license revocation, and women House members, led by Barbara Kennelly (D-CT) and Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) led a spirited floor fight and demanded license revocation as a condition of continued legislative support by women House members. The Republican leadership caved in and passed the license revocation measure by 425 to 5.

Some Unhappy with Custody/Access Focus

Continued from page 1

Guidubaldi

"If conflict were used as a criterion for shared parenting, we would be in a position of reenforcing and promoting conflict on the part of whose who want to defeat shared parenting and to secure sole custody decisions," said Guidubaldi.

2) As to transition, Guidubaldi has mentioned at the hearings that "children are able to make the transition from home to day care, and from home to baby sitters and its hard to understand why some would suggest that the child cannot make a healthy transition from one loving parent to another loving parent.

"There is no research evidence to indicate that children are developmentally unable to make these transitions. There may be minor annoyances in setting up a transition arrangement, but the alternative of losing significant contact with a parent creates far more severe impact on the child," said Guidubaldi.

3) As to the research, "researchers' conclusions have been misquoted and some studies antagonistic to joint custody have been used in testimony without any critique of methodological rigor," said Guidubaldi.

Guidubaldi, and Commissioner Bill Harrington of Washington state, had referred to the research of Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.

Kelly in a 1991 overview of custody research, said that children in joint custody do as well or better than children in sole custody. That, said Kelly, is the good news about joint custody.

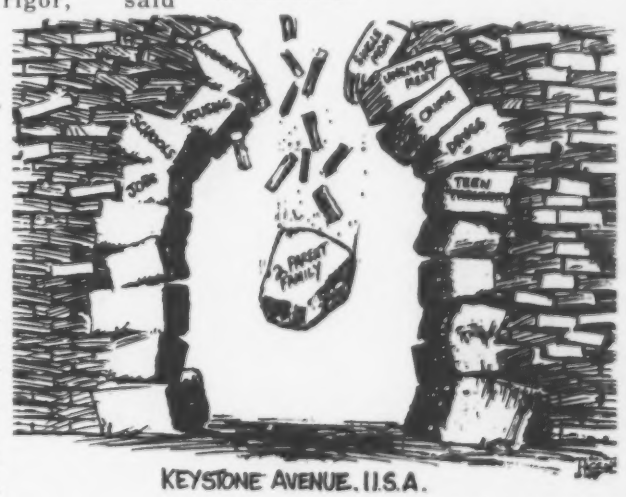
Federally funded researcher Sanford Braver, Ph.D., Arizona State University, has also found strong benefits to children in having fathers significantly involved in their lives (see details elsewhere in this issue).

There are 15 members of the Commission, including Guidubaldi and Harrington. Guidubaldi is a past president of the 18,000 member National Association of School Psychologists, past editor of the Highlights magazine for children, and is a licensed clinical professor of psychology at John Carroll University in Cleveland, and director of research projects on children at Kent State University, Ohio. Harrington is president of the American Fathers Coalition, and lives in Takoma, WA. The Commission held hearings on March 28-29 in Alexandria, VA, April 19-10 in Cleveland, OH, and May 9-10 in San Francisco, CA.

The mission of the Commission is "Creating environments in which decisions can best be made about the well-being of children that ensure that children get emotional and financial support from both parents."

The subject of the hearings is "Custody and visitation".

The Commission, which was established by Congress, is due to end its one year of operation September 30, 1995. CRC members are urged to ask Congress to extend the life of the Commission (see suggested letter to Congress elsewhere in this issue).



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1995 CRC Conference Draws Wide Support

About 250 people attended CRC's Ninth National Conference March 29-April 2, 1995 at the Holiday Inn in Bethesda, Maryland. Speakers included Congressman Albert Wynn (D-MD); Eloise Anderson, director of California's Department of Social Services; David Gray Ross, director of the federal child support office; researchers Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D. and Sanford Braver, Ph.D., and Warren Farrell, Ph.D., writer. Activities included a Candlelight Vigil at the Jefferson Memorial, Book and Author luncheon, banquet, talks, workshops, and awards presentations.

Cong. Wynn

Braver's Findings

Sanford Braver, Ph.D., a federally funded researcher and psychology professor at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, said his research shows that "If we adopt a policy of a presumption for joint legal custody, we will have better child support payments, children will have more contact with fathers, we will not have more conflict, we will not have worse parenting on the part of the mothers, and most important of all, we will have better adjusted children."

Braver has received more than $1 million in funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to investigate why some non-custodial parents (primarily fathers) do not pay child support and are not emotionally involved with their children following a divorce or marital situation.

Braver

Braver found that most fathers do not withdraw their support. For those who had seemingly "withdrawn," Braver noted that "their experience was not one of 'withdrawing' at all. Rather, they felt expelled, kicked out, thrust out of their children's lives. They felt that the system, their ex-spouses, and society's attitudes in combination seemed to combine in such a way as to just get them out of the kid's lives, so they felt that the kids really weren't theirs anymore."

Braver said the results of the research convinced him that 'our divorce system actually contributes to this problem—it's part of the problem and it's far from the solution.'

Braver found that fathers who had joint legal custody of their children paid 97% of their support (94% according to mothers' reports). In fact, the support payment rate was higher when the joint legal custody was court-ordered over the objections of one parent than it was in cases where both parents had voluntarily agreed to such a custody arrangement. Braver concluded that the child support problem (i.e. the non-payment of support) is relatively easy to fix.

"The proper way to fix the problem is not through more draconian enforcement procedures. The evidence is that (the enforcement bureaucracy) is about a $2 billion enterprise that has had fantastically little success...returns expected from these punitive measures are modest...things that should work are really quite inexpensive in comparison, almost free...Most importantly, establishing a presumption for joint legal custody as the rebuttable judicial presumption in divorce cases should go a long way toward solving most of these problems."

Braver defined joint legal custody as when "both parents retain the rights to make decisions about the children's lives that they enjoyed prior to the divorce."

"10 Most Wanted"

David Gray Ross, director of the federal child support office in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), said the child support office will sponsor a "10 Most Wanted" list, a children's contest, in which children will write in to say "Why I Love My Father and why he is important to me." The winner of the contest will be a father, and the reward will be to send the father and the child to Disneyland for a week.

Ross

Ross said data from the $300,000 federal access grant won by Dick Woods of Iowa shows that 80% to 90% of actively involved non-custodial parents pay child support. This is in accord with Census Bureau data showing the same high correlation.

Ross said he did not take the job to be a bill collector, but to improve the lives of children and families. He said non-support of children is a criminal matter, and must be treated seriously. But he also said "If we involve non-custodial parents in the lives of their children, the problem of child support will largely go away."

He said that some state child support agencies resist helping with access and visitation, because they say they don't have the time. We are trying to provide them with the resources.

He spoke in favor of license revocation for non-payment, because he said the results show that it is working to collect support.

Overview of AFDC

Eloise Anderson, director of California's Department of Social Services, gave an overview of the AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) since its inception in the 1930's. She noted that the program was originally designed to assist widows who lost their husbands to war, farm and industrial accidents. Women stayed at home to do housework before the advent of washing machines and dryers, natural gas and electricity and indoor plumbing reduced the number of hours needed for housework. Also, this was before institutions took care of the sick, the elderly and the disabled, and before daycare. Women were the service-givers to their own families. There was very little divorce and abandonment. Today, on the other hand, a majority of women are in the workforce.

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CRC Conference

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In the 1930's, less than 3% of children were born outside of marriage. Today, 35 percent of children are born outside of marriage. She criticized "the antiquated notion that females should not be financially responsible for children and that fathers provide no nurturing for children," which is a premise of AFDC.

She said AFDC diminishes people's efficacy, and substance abuse is a big problem with people on AFDC.

Teenage girls who become pregnant are looking for affection, not sex. Many teenage girls were raised without their fathers. The importance of having fathers in the home is that it helps their daughters distinguish the difference between affection and sex, said Anderson. Anderson heads the largest state social services agency in the U.S.

Other speakers at the conference included:

* Joan B. Kelly, who spoke on the need for mandatory mediation, as part of her presentation on Resolving Disputes About Children: Research and Policy Issues;

* Elizabeth Hickey, CRC's national parenting education director, and Michael L. Oddenino, who spoke on parenting education;

* Phil Stahl, Ph.D., author of the book Conducting Child Abuse Allegations;

* A panel consisting of Cathy Young, freelance writer; Joe Hallinan, Newhouse Newspapers; and Cheryl Wetzstein, Washington Times reporter, who spoke on "Working with the Media";

* A book and author luncheon consisting of Margorie Engel, author, Divorce Help Sourcebook, Riki Jones, Ph.D. author, The Empowered Woman; Richard Sauber, Ph.D. and Gerald Weeks, Ph.D., co-authors of Directory of Family Psychology and Family Therapy; Constance Ahrons, Ph.D., author of The Good Divorce; and Melinda Blau, author of Families Apart;

* Karen DeCrow, Esquire, Judge Minna Buck (Retired), and Rosaire Nottage, Chicago lawyer, who spoke on "Why Shared Parenting is Good for Women";

* Ron Haskins, Majority staff, Human Resources Subcommittee of House Ways & Means Committee, and Ron Henry, Esquire, who gave an overview of Congressional Action on Child Support and Access Policies;

* Steve Chan, who spoke on "Why Should I Get a Computer? What Kind Should I Get? Where Can I Get One-Cheap?"

* June Hutchison, M.M.H., who conducted play therapy for adults;

* Richard A. Gardner, M.D. who discussed "Protocols for Sex Abuse Evaluations in Child Custody Disputes";

* David A. Price, Ph.D., Policy Studies, Inc., Dick Woods, recipient of a federal access grant, and David Arnaudo of the federal child support office, who spoke on the federally funded Access/Visitation Demonstration Projects;

* Anna Keller, who spoke on the David Blankenhorn book Fatherless America, and John Bauserman, who spoke on custody research.

Awards Presented at Conference

At the conference, CRC presented Chief Justice Warren E. Burger awards for "Healers" among lawyers, judges and others, its annual Media Awards and Active Parenting Awards. The awards consist of engraved plaques.

A "Healer" might be:

* a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);

* an attorney with a professional track record of promoting a child's access to two parents and others who have bonded with the child.

For Media Awards, possible contenders are:

* best treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage);

* best media coverage of a county agency that provides programs for teenage parents;

* best TV series on abuse and false abuse charges.

For Active Parenting, possible contenders are:

* programs that help with family formation and family preservation;

* programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.

Winners of "Healer" Awards

* Judge Stephen Messenger, Juvenile Court, Douglas County, Georgia, for his efforts on behalf of a child's right to two parents. Sonny Burmeister, CRC coordinator in Georgia, presented the award on behalf of CRC.

* David Brewer, of the Aring Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, an innovator in helping children of divorce to better handle the transition in their lives. Brewer has taught parenting education to thousands of youngsters, including parents in the inner city, in the Cleveland area.

* Diane Shaw, for working to obtain funds for programs to help children and families of divorce in Missouri. Bill and Lyn Huerter, CRC coordinators in Nebraska, presented the award on behalf of CRC.

Winners of "Best in Media" Awards

* U.S. News and World Report, for the article entitled "Honor Thy Children" published February 27, 1995. The well-documented article showed the need of children for fathers as well as mothers. Amy Dacey, of the National Foundation for Women Legislators, presented the award to U.S. News and World Report representatives Joseph P. Shapiro, the editor of the article, and Joannie M. Schrof, one of the writers of the article.

* The Washington Times, for writing and reporting by Mona Charen, Suzanne Fields, Richard Grenier, Todd Lindberg, Cheryl Roman, Walter Williams, and Cheryl Wetzstein, which question stereotypes and acknowledge that children generally do best when they have two parents. Richard Grenier accepted the award on behalf of the newspaper. Grenier was the first columnist to popularize the finding of researchers Richard Jarjoura and Doug Smith that the number of single parent homes in a neighborhood or

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CRC Conference

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city, rather than race or crime, is the biggest single factor in predicting the rate of crime.

Winners of 1995 "Parenting" Awards

* Elizabeth Hickey, of the Mediation and Divorce Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, for her video entitled "Children: The Experts on Divorce", for their descriptions of the process of divorce, and how co-parenting can work. Valerie Hale, Ph.D., a co-director of the Center, presented the award on behalf of CRC.

* The Children of Separation and Divorce Center, Columbia, Maryland, Risa Garon, M.S.W., Executive Director, for her work on behalf of children of divorce. Paul Wright, a parenting education trainer at the Center, referred to the good work the Center is doing in parenting education in Maryland.

* The Center for Divorce Education, for "Children in the Middle"—children's video and workbook, a program to help reduce the trauma of divorce on children. The award was mailed to recipients Jack Arbuthnot and Donald Smith of the Center.

Thank You!

CRC wishes to thank those who helped make the conference a success. They include Lynn Gowan, Jay Goodrich, Victor Basile, Roy Nolan, Gary Cowardin, Michael L. Oddenino, Cindy, Michael and Ashley Ewing, Ed Mudrak, Deanne Mechling, Kellie McCrery, Joanna Madrid, Amy Christianson, LaJuan Sykes, Ellen, Diana and Justin Levy, Paul Wright, Virginia Ballingee, Joan Langworthy, and Derrick Hicks.

More conference news will appear in our next issue.

If you would like to be a presenter at CRC's 10th National Conference in 1996, please contact CRC by August 1st, 1995.

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A New Service from CRC!

Nationally Known Distinguished Psychologist Available for Telephone Consultations & Expert Court Testimony

Dr. Israel Lichtenstein, a nationally-known expert in the field of custody and divorce has been enlisted by CRC to provide services to CRC members at a significantly reduced rate! *ONLY FOR MEMBERS*! Dr. Lichtenstein is an experienced and enthusiastic advocate of joint custody/shared parenting and CRC is fortunate to retain his services. **Dr. Lichtenstein can help direct you in these ways:**

1 - Methods that succeed in obtaining your ex-spouse's cooperation to agree to mediation of custody
2 - Formulas for how to create co-parenting plans that really work, addressing specific individual needs
3 - Ways to avoid costly and emotionally painful litigation
4 - Techniques to significantly reduce the cost of your divorce
5 - Methods of protecting your children from the emotional ravages of the divorce process

In addition to telephone consultation with CRC members, Dr. Lichtenstein is able to consult with your attorney or mediator. Whenever necessary, Dr. Lichtenstein can appear in court as a nationally recognized expert, advocating joint custody/shared parenting.

Dr. Lichtenstein is a licensed Psychologist with 19 years of experience in performing psychotherapy, as well as a trained mediator; he is past Co-Chairman of the Ethics Board of the Kentucky Psychological Association, and has been elected to Who's Who among Human Services Professionals. He was a co-author of a joint custody bill in the Ohio Legislature in 1986 and has performed research on the psychological advantages of joint custody for the emotional health of children of divorce.

To learn more about Dr. Lichtenstein's service call his office at 513/221-8545 to arrange a FREE 30 minute phone consultation with Dr. Lichtenstein.

Taking advantage of this Member Service is just one more way that CRC is finding ways to help members live the message that THE BEST PARENT IS BOTH PARENTS!

paid advertisement

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ACTION ALERT!!! ACTION ALERT!!!

The U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare has decided, in keeping with its mandate, to work on access/visitation/parenting issues, but the funding for the Commission is due to expire in September. Please write to two key members of the Senate, Senators Hatfield (R-OR) and Specter (R-PA), asking them to extend the time and funding for the Commission. These two senators have the greatest power over whether the Commission continues after September.

This national Commission, which is holding hearings around the country, can help Congress and the public to understand the problems relating to children and non-custodial parents, and to recommend effective solutions. But the Commission must have more time to do its work!

Send a postcard or letter with wording such as stated below. Ask your friends and associates to write, also.

It is the quantity of letters and postcards that count. Five postcards or short letters count more than one long letter. Write and write today! And send a copy to CRC! Write to

Senator Mark Hatfield
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
131 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Arlen Specter
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health, Human
Services and Education
154 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We urge full funding and an extension of the deadline for the work of the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare past September 30, 1995.

This Commission, created under P.L. 102-521, is examining issues relating to children and non-custodial parents. These issues affect 40 percent of the American people, and if properly addressed, could reduce court litigation, reduce crime, and see positive increases in voluntary payment of child support.

Please provide full funding and an extension of the deadline for the Commission's work.

Sincerely

Name (Printed)
Address

President Clinton Sends Message to Vigil

President Clinton

President Clinton sent a message to CRC's Candlelight Vigil March 31, 1995, complimenting CRC's "Continued commitment to helping young Americans lead more stable, healthier lives."

The President's message, which was read before 250 people at the Jefferson Memorial by 9-year-old Diana Levy, also said CRC's "efforts to strengthen families and to provide vital support and encouragement are helping countless children to succeed." The President's message is reproduced at the right.

Petitions which had been collected during the year from parents who have had access/visitation problems were shown during the Vigil in the presence of Darryl Grant, former Washington Redskins football star, as TV cameras from CBS and ABC Washington, D.C. affiliates recorded the event for showing on the air later that evening. The Voice of America and other media also were on hand. Grant is a spokesperson for CRC. A representative sample of the petitions has been sent to President Clinton.

Kathryn Gibson, CRC coordinator for Pennsylvania, spoke at the Vigil of the need for more parenting education for divorcing parents. Gibson is developing parenting education programs in two western Pennsylvania counties.

Ashley Ewing, the 9 year old daughter of Michael Ewing, read a poem she wrote: Mommy, I Have your eyes and your size/Your mouth and your hair/

Daddy, I have your nose and your toes/and your knack for flair. I have artistic abilities like you, mom/and we both love to shop to and from/

My sense of humor is like yours, dad/and for that I am very glad/The point is that I was formed from both of you/and each of you is a part of me/I need to spend time with both of you/to learn from you and gain your strength; I need the freedom from each of you/to love the other/and I love both of you very much!

There followed a roll-call of the states, in which the 6,600,000 children estimated to have difficulty in obtaining access to their non-custodial parents was read, state by state. This state-by-state estimate has appeared in previous issues of Speak Out for Children.

Cindy Ewing, CRC coordinator in Virginia, chaired the Vigil.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 28, 1995

Greetings to everyone gathered at the Jefferson Memorial for the 1995 Candlelight Vigil, sponsored by the Children's Rights Council. I am delighted to join you in your efforts to shed light on the special concerns of children.

At this time of year, we celebrate the coming of spring and the rebirth of nature's beauty. We are inspired to renew our determination to reach our goals and to make plans for the future. During this hopeful season, let us also rededicate ourselves to helping those who most need our compassion and care.

I am grateful to the members of the Children's Rights Council for your continued commitment to helping young Americans lead more stable, healthier lives. Your efforts to strengthen families and to provide vital support and encouragement are helping countless children to succeed. As our nation strives to meet the challenges of the future, your caring and dedication to service are invaluable.

Best wishes for a meaningful observance and for future success in your mission.

Bill Clinton

Book Reviews
by CRC Reviewers

Putting Kids First by Michael L. Oddenino

(Family Connections Publishing, 575 East 4500 South, Suite B-250, Salt Lake City, UT 84107, 153 pages, illustrated, ISBN 1-884862-03-9, $16.95).

"Putting Kids First" is the title of Mike Oddenino's long-awaited book on children and divorce. Subtitled "Walking Away From a Marriage Without Walking Over the Kids," the handsomely designed and illustrated book (by illustrator Jeff Carter) has the name "Attorney for the Children's Rights Council" featured prominently below Oddenino's name on the cover.

"The way you treat your ex-spouse is equal to the way you are treating your children. Once this is understood, decisions will be governed by a decidedly different and more important set of values," Oddenino writes. "When you look at your ex-spouse, try to see the faces of your children. You might act differently toward your former mate. Whatever energy you put out into this world inevitably makes its way back to you in some form or another. It is impossible to treat your ex-spouse positively without such actions benefitting your children and you."

The book offers a Children's Bill of Rights and a sample Custody Agreement.

The book also offers five keys to positive parenting:

1. Give your children unconditional love; 2. Give your children loving physical contact; 3. Give your children loving eye contact; 4. Give your children loving ears; 5. Develop your own sense of self-esteem independent of your children.

Drawing upon his experience as a custody lawyer who has handled a substantial number of cases from his Arcadia, CA office, Oddenino says "conflict between parents is the deadliest danger for children caught in the middle of a divorce".

He offers ten suggestions for keeping kids out of post-divorce conflict:

I. Sort your issues from theirs (the kids);

II. Plan for the long haul...there is no instant soup remedy;

III. Honor your kids feelings but don't be swallowed up by them;

IV. Cope/Grow by using available resources;

V. Manage the failure, guilt, anger and blame that often accompany divorce;

VI. Speak kindly, as he who throweth dirt, loseth ground;

VII. Honor your child's father or mother; they're the only one your child's got;

VIII. Distinguish concern issues from control issues for good mental health;

IX. Balance kind and strong and you . "I empower yourself;

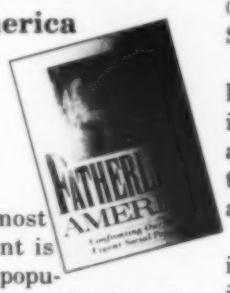
X. Fill in the blank for the particular needs of you and your family.

Oddenino makes a point that he often says to bar groups and other organizations, "Many fathers complain that the family law courts are prejudiced against men. Men say that they are not treated fairly when it comes to custody decisions....But men have it backwards. The family law courts are prejudiced against women on custody issues. Against women? How can this be when courts award custody to women in 90% of all cases?...The answer is that prejudice still exists that women were made for getting pregnant, changing diapers and taking care of kids while men were made to do the important work of the world."

He says that women will "never make true progress in the work force until men assume appropriate responsibilities in the home, particularly in the area of child-rearing."

Fatherless America by David Blankenhorn

(Basic Books, 1995, 328 pages, ISBN No. 0-465-01483-6, $24.00)



Blankenhorn's most important argument is that contemporary popular as well as elitist (academic) culture both support a view of fathers and fatherhood as (in his words) "unnecessary." He also views fatherlessness—living completely or primarily in a home apart from one's biological male parent—as the result of paternal abandonment and choice.

"Fatherlessness," he says, consists of "the flight of males from their children's lives." Blankenhorn has fallen, it seems, hook, line and sinker for one of the most prevalent cliches of fatherhood, and placed the full weight of responsibility for "fatherlessness" on the male parents.

He does this despite acknowledging that many women deliberately choose to exclude male parents from their lives. Blankenhorn further argues that, ironically, it is only as fathers that men have any social value.

He relies on a scattering of anthropological studies, but in the end, on those famous (but hardly scientific) stapes of American political thought, Hobbes and Locke who, like Blankenhorn, believe that the essential and universal nature of the male human animal is so selfish, aggressive, and anti-social that males must everywhere be forcibly conscripted by social mores into civilization, through the social role of fatherhood.

Traditional masculinity, he claims, is defined by "roughness, dominance, repression of empathy and competitiveness."

There is much to agree with, and be grateful has been said in this book. And there are many things to disagree with, and wish had never been said, because they make the struggle of parents for their children even more difficult.

You should read, as an antidote to Blankenhorn's earnest but flawed book, Myths of Gender (Basic Books, 1992) by Brown University Professor (Biology and Medicine) Anne Fausto-Sterling.

Blankenhorn has lost sight of human issues that cut across gender, including such issues as the uses and abuses of authority, power and control, the meaning of responsibility, and the reality of human conflict.

He also ignores evidence on such issues as unwed teen mothers, by ignoring the role of women's choices

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Bills and Resolutions in Congress

We are including important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. A bill, unlike a resolution, requires a state or parent to do something; a resolution expresses the wishes of Congress, but does not require action. H. or H.R. refers to the House of Representatives, S. refers to the Senate. The phone number of the committee handling the bill is provided below; you may call to check on the status of legislation, or express your views. It is even more important to let your own Representative and Senators know your views. The capitol switchboard, which can connect you with the officers of all members of Congress and committees, is (202) CA4-3121 (224-3121). This is a 24-hour switchboard, that can provide you night and day with names, addresses and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress. During normal business hours on weekdays, the switchboard can connect you with any Congressional office on Capitol Hill. To save on expenses, you can contact the Congressmembers' local branch office in your district.

Financial Child Support

Sen. Daschle

S. 8. Called the "Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Parental Responsibility Act," this bill would provide grants for the establishment and operation of group homes for custodial parents under the age of 19 and their children. Indian tribes would also be eligible for funds for such adult-supervised group homes. Parents who are under 19 would be required to complete a high school education or its equivalent. The bill would also provide grants to combat teenage pregnancy, and provide a national clearinghouse on teenage pregnancy prevention programs. Sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-ND), and other Senate Democrats. Referred to Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

S. 456. To improve and strengthen the child support collection system. Would automate the interstate child support tracking system, improve locate information from interstate networks, increase paternity establishment, and authorize suspension of licenses and withholding of passports for non-payment of support. Contains grants to states for access and visitation programs. Sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N), co-sponsored by Sens. Rockefeller, Chaffee, Feinstein, Snowe, Lieberman, Dorgan and Kennedy. Referred to the Finance Committee (202) 224-4515.

S. 442. To improve and strengthen the child support collection system. This bill, introduced by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS), is similar to S. 456 (see above), but it does not contain the provision for grants to the states for access and visitation programs. Sen. Snowe's phone number is (202) 224-5344.

S. 472, a bill to consolidate and expand Federal child care services to promote self sufficiency and support working families. Sponsored by Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Ted Kennedy (D-MA). Referred to Committee on Labor and Human Resources (202) 224-5375.

S. 632, to create a national child custody database. The bill says that despite child custody jurisdictional laws designed to prevent parents attempting to obtain favorable custody rulings in other states, gaps still exist for confusion and differentiations by various state courts. The bill would confirm that a court of a state that has made a child custody determination continues as long as such state remains the residence of the child or of any contestant (which is in accord with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act-the UCCJA). The bill would also establish a national child custody registry—a national network to allow state courts to identify every proceeding relating to child custody proceedings filed before any U.S. court or any state court. The bill would also say it is the sense of the Senate that supervised visitation centers be established for children who have been removed from their parents as a result of abuse or neglect. Sponsored by Sen. Pete Domenici (D-NM), and other Senate Democrats. Referred to Judiciary Committee (202) 224-5225.

S. 687. To improve and strengthen child support enforcement. Similar to S. 456 (above). Sponsored by Sen. Pryor (D-AK). Referred to Finance Committee, 202-224-4515.

White House Bill Signing

President Clinton signed an Executive Order, February 27, 1995, requiring federal agencies and the military to cooperate fully in efforts to establish paternity and child support orders.

The order requires federal agencies to cooperate with the Federal Parent Locator service by providing complete information to assist in locating non-custodial parents and their employers who work for federal agencies and the military.

The order says information shall be provided to the IRS for the purpose of federal income tax refund offsets for child support.

Photographs taken at the White House of the signing ceremony of the order revealed only representatives of custodial parents groups, but no representatives of groups representing non-custodial parents and children, step-families, second wives, or grandparents.

Book Reviews

Continued from Page 9

in modeling, or failing to model, the kind of responsibility and maturity that children need to experience and to learn.

Blankenhorn believes that women are naturally dominant in the domestic world, as men are in the world outside the home. This is the same kind of "science" and philosophy that told us, not so long ago, that women who are educated will go mad; that they are incapable of the responsibility of exercising the vote; and that women become sexless and devitalized after menopause. Although studies indicate some differences between men and women, people have considerable latitude in determining the social and individual meaning of our biological heritage.

Blankenhorn derides organizations like CRC that advocate "better divorce," without seeing how closely the process of seeking "better divorce" resembles the processes of achieving "better marriage" and "better parenting."

For a full copy of the 4 page review of Fatherless America by Anna Keller, from which this article is excerpted, send $3.00 to CRC for postage and handling.

National Survey Uncovers 30 Keys to Teens' Futures

Adapted from an article by Cheryl Wetzstein in The Washington Times, February 8, 1995.

Teen-agers need 30 "assets" in their lives to reach successful adulthood, says a new book based on a study of 273,000 youths.

"Kids need to develop an internal gyroscope" so they feel "centered and focused," says Peter L. Benson, co-author of "What Kids Need to Succeed: Proven, Practical Ways to Raise Good Kids."

"Some parents don't have open lines of communication with their kids, but they shouldn't give up," says longtime educator Judy Galbraith, who wrote the book with Mr. Benson. "Kids want someone to talk to.

The 30 assets that the 273,000 teens said they need to succeed are listed on the accompanying table. They are divided into 16 external assets and 14 internal assets. Money was not listed anywhere among the 30 assets.

The authors say children must have

* Adult role models who set good examples
* A healthy community in which good values are practiced.
* A life that includes study and learning
* Healthy relationships
* Service to others.

Teens especially need adults who care about them, says Mr. Benson, president of Search Institute, a Minneapolis organization that conducts research on children and teen issues.

"It may be more important to say 'I love you' to a 16-year-old than to a 3-year-old," he says.

The 30 assets listed in the book were based on the answers 273,000 sixth through 12th graders gave to a 152 question survey developed by Search Institute from 1989 through early 1990.

Teens from 600 communities in 8 states answered the survey.

Mr. Benson, Ms. Galbraith, founder of Minneapolis' Free Spirit Publishing, which published the book, and Free Spirit editor Pamela Espeland, examined the answers and identified the 30 characteristics that accompanied teens with the healthiest lifestyles.

"The assets are fairly obvious, but they're backed up by really substantial research," Ms. Galbraith says.

Teens who had 20 or more of these 30 assets were less likely to have problems with drinking, anti-social behavior, school failure, sexual activity and depression. Teens with 10 or fewer assets often struggled in these areas, the authors found.

Teens who said they had at least 20 of the assets were successful in school and avoided destructive behavior.

The teens average 16.4 assets, "which is a start, but not enough," Mr. Benson says.

The power of the 30 assets is that they work together to build character, he says.

It's not enough to say that if you give teens a few assets you can "inoculate" them, he says. "If you're weak in any one of these areas, it interferes" with a healthy lifestyle.

"What kids Need to Succeed" can serve as a practical guide, listing the assets and offering advice to parents, social groups and congregations on building family friendly environments for youths, the authors say.

"It's something that people can grab on to," Ms. Galbraith says.

Mr. Benson says that in the past when he tried to talk about these values, audiences tended to tune out the message. "Now there's a comfort level about talking about values," he says.

"The days of big government are gone. Americans have a latent ability to care. It's underground. We need to mobilize and help care for others, and everyone cares about children and teenagers."

GOOD KID TOOLS

Teens need the following 30 "assets" in their lives to succeed, according to a book based on a Search Institute study of more than 270,000 students in grades six through 12.

External assets kids need:	Internal assets kids need:
1. Warm, caring family home.	17. Desire to achieve.
2. Approachable parents.	18. Desire to advance educationally.
3. Communicative parents.	19. Desire for above average grades.
4. Other approachable adults.	20. Self-discipline to do 6-plus hours of homework a week.
5. Other communicative adults.	21. Desire to help people.
6. Parental involvement in school.	22. Global concern.
7. Positive school climate.	23. Empathy.
8. Parental standards.	24. Sexual restraint.
9. Parental discipline.	25. Assertiveness skills.
10. Parental monitoring.	26. Decision-making skills.
11. Limits on away-from-home socializing.	27. Friendship-making skills.
12. Positive peer influences.	28. Planning skills.
13. Music lessons.	29. Self-esteem.
14. Organized extracurricular activities.	30. Hope.
15. Community activities.	
16. Involvement with a faith community.	

How many assets do most teens have?

The Search Institute found that teens on average had 16 of the 30 assets. Teens should have a minimum of 25 assets, researchers say.

Grade	Average number of assets
6	17.8
7	17.1
8	16.6
9	16.1
10	16.0
11	15.9
12	16.0

How do assets make a difference?

Teens with the most "assets" seldom engage in risky behaviors.

	Number of assets involved in:				
	Alcohol use	Sexual activity	School failure	Depression and suicide	Antisocial behavior and violence
0-10	44%	52%	31%	42%	51%
11-20	23%	34%	13%	25%	29%
21-25	9%	17%	4%	11%	13%
26-30	3%	7%	1%	5%	6%

Source: "What Kids Need to Succeed: Proven, Practical Ways to Raise Good Kids," by Peter L. Benson, Judy Galbraith and Pamela Espeland

The Washington Times

CRC Note: The days of big government may be gone in some respects, but not in the area of child support—see Page 1 article in this newsletter. And see article: "The Child Support Trap" on page 14.

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In the Courts

Visitation Travel Expenses

A father was not entitled to a deduction from his child support obligation to pay for his travelling costs in visiting his son, the California Court of Appeals, Second District has decided. The father argued that, because the mother had moved with the child from California to Massachusetts, his visitation expenses had been increased. The trial court agreed with the father's reasoning on this point. However, the appeals court said that the mother had obtained court approval for the move, which thus must be assumed to be in the child's best interests. In addition, the appeals court said, the mother's visitation expenses exceeded the father's, because she was obliged to accompany the child on trips back to California. The appeals court therefore directed the trial court to consider whether child support should be increased to cover these travelling costs.

Prostano v. Gigliotti; Calif CtApp 2dDist. No. B082860, 3/27/95.

Abatement During Visitation

A father's child support should not have been abated for the summer months during which he had extended visitation, the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals has held. The state guidelines are based on the assumption that the non-custodial parent will have customary visitation rights, the court said. The custodial parent's fixed expenses for items, such as shelter, are unaffected by the visitation period, the Appeals Court said.

Flanagan v. Flanagan; Ala CtCivApp. No. AV93000780, 3/17/95.

Grandparent Visitation

Georgia's grandparent visitation law is unconstitutional, the Georgia Supreme Court has held. State interference with parents' constitutionally protected right to raise their children may be justified only where the health or welfare of the children would be threatened without such interference, the Supreme Court said. The court thus refused to recognize the validity of grandparents' visitation in either intact or divorced households.

Brooks v. Parkerson; Ga SupCt. No. S94A1451, 3/17/95.

Note: CRC of Georgia has filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in opposition to this decision on appeal. Sonny Burmeister, president of CRC of Georgia, notes that all other 49 states recognize grandparents' visitation rights. At a meeting of state coordinators and chapter heads at the CRC conference on March 28, 1995, the response was unanimous among those present that children should have access to grandparents in both intact and divorced households.

Grandparents Visitation

In a situation where both divorced parents are opposed, a child's grandparents are not able to use Nevada's grandparent visitation law to insist on visitation, the Nevada Supreme Court decided on March 2. The state's law is silent on this point, but in interpreting the statute, the Nevada Supreme Court followed the lead of courts in other states with similar laws. State legislatures did not intend to allow grandparents the right to visitation, over the objections of both parents, or the objection of the grandparents' own child, the court said. The statute establishes a presumption against grandparent visitation if divorced parents with full legal rights to their child agree that visitation is not in the child's best interest, the court said.

Steward v. Steward, Nev SupCt., No. 24563, 3/2/95.

Joint Custody

Joint custody does not permit one of the parents to remove children and hide them from the other parent, the Alaska Court of Appeals has ruled. The court acknowledged that, when parents share joint custody each has a right to assume temporary exclusive physical custody. However, when one parent exercises that right in a manner intended to defeat the other parent's equivalent right, a crime has been committed, the court said.

Strother v. Alaska, Alaska CtApp. No. 1394, 3/3/95.

Support of Other Children

In calculating a parent's income for purposes of determining a child support obligation, Florida trial courts have the discretion to consider the parent's support obligation to other children who are not the subject of the pending proceeding, the Florida District Court of Appeals, First District, decided on March 17. The state's guidelines do not address the support obligations of custodial parents supporting other children, but there is a provision for adjustments needed to achieve an equitable result. This provision can be used to adjust the custodial parent's income for purposes of determining his or her obligation to the subject child, the court said. The Appeals Court thus overruled a lower court's decision to disregard a divorced custodial mother's support obligation for support of the three children from a prior marriage, in computing the total available income of both parents for support of their out-of-wedlock child.

Hutstar v. Lappin, Fla1stDist CtApp. No. 94-2251, 3/17/95.

Post-Majority Support

The Pennsylvania Superior Court has ruled that the Pennsylvania law permitting courts to order parents who are divorced, or otherwise subject to an existing support order, to contribute toward their child's college education does not violate that state or federal constitutions. The court said that, although divorced parents are treated differently from parents in an intact family, it is reasonable to conclude that children from non-intact families need special protection.

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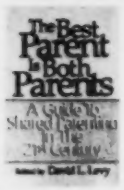
Inside CRC



Ohio Book Review Features CRC Book

"Both parents count," said a review of CRC's book The Best Parent is Both Parents that appeared in The Repository, a Canton, Ohio, newspaper on February 16, 1995.

The reviewer, Kathie Smith, interviewed the book's editor, CRC President David L. Levy, as saying: "Right now, federal and state government family policy discourages two-parent families with higher federal taxes for married couples, the welfare policy of rewarding a person who doesn't marry, public housing that is not available to poor two-parent families, and child support policies that are unconnected to parenting."

Smith also quoted Margaret Wuwert, CRC coordinator in Ohio, as saying "Don't give up...Keep on working toward being able to be a parent to your child. This is applicable to not just divorce, but also to paternity cases, where the parents were not ever married."

The Best Parent is Both Parents offers tips to parents and professionals on how to maintain involvement by both parents in the event of divorce. The 157-page book sells for $9.95. Ask at your local bookstore for the book, or order from CRC. For orders from CRC, add $3.00 for postage and handling. Book orders should be addressed to CRC, 220 I Street N.E., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Thank you, Donors!

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drives that take place in all federal government offices each October. Thanks to your efforts, more than $16,000 will be distributed to CRC over a year's time from contributions made in the Fall 1994 campaign.

This was an increase of 35 percent over what was contributed the year before for CRC through the federal government charity drive.

CRC was listed as number 1513 in the Children's Charities of America listing, which is part of the Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contributed to CRC in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contributed to CRC through their United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC also appreciates all those who contributed to CRC through the Global Focus credit card campaign run by MBNA American Bank, in Newark, Delaware. $2,267.81 was designated to CRC by users of the Global Focus credit card for 1994.

CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution direct to CRC, send it to CRC, 220 I Street, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Intellectual Property Services

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for CRC, is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley and Ruggiero, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

CRC Receives Grant

CRC has received a modest grant from the Prince George's County, Maryland Child Support Office to evaluate the effectiveness of the county's Access/Vistation/Mediation office. The office, established at the urging of CRC several years ago, provides mediation services to custodial and non-custodial parents. The program, under the over-all supervision of the county's child support office, receives an annual appropriation by the county government and operates on a sliding fee schedule for individuals who use the program. The program reports an 80% success rate, at an average settlement time of 1 hour, 37 minutes per case, at an average salary cost of $25. CRC will evaluate whether individuals who use the program pay more child support, are satisfied with the program, and go to court less for visitation cases.

CRC previously received a modest grant from the Prince George's County child support office to re-write a flyer explaining the Do's and Dont's of visitation to custodial and non-custodial parents. For a copy of the flyer, adaptable for use in your county or city, write to CRC, and enclose a self-addressed stamped (32 cents) envelope.

Levy Named to Editorial Board

CRC President David L. Levy has been named as a senior member of the editorial board of The American Journal of Family Therapy, a quarterly publication edited by S. Richard Sauber, Ph.D., Boca Raton, Florida. Levy contributed a book review to the journal in 1992 praising "The Parental Alienation Syndrome" by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. The Journal is published by Brunner/Mazel Publishers, in New York City.

Media

CRC has been in the news frequently in the past several months, with national TV appearances on all three major networks (ABC, NBC, CBS), The New York Times, and other national media, on the Marcia Clark case. Clark opposed having her husband Gordon spend more time with the children while she was preoccupied evenings and weekends with the prosecution of O.J. Simpson. The CRC position is that most parents have to work, work is a form of child support, and work should not disqualify a father or mother from parenting. We believe Marcia and Gordon Clark should adjust their schedules so that the parents (not babysitters) can spend maximum time with the children.

CRC was also quoted in various other media on custody cases, welfare reform through kinship care, and license revocation. CRC opposes license revocation for child support delinquency because it is part of a bureaucratic system that has not worked over the past 20 years, and which fails to address the need for parenting of children in the event of divorce.

CRC often writes or phones the media praising or criticizing stories. We wrote a letter to the editor (unprinted) of The New York Times with copies to every editor listed on the Times masthead, objecting to an attack on joint custody by guest columnist David Sheff on March 26, 1995.

The story said that joint custody didn't work because the child objected to flying between San Francisco

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Around the Country
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The Child Support Trap

Mona Charen became the first nationally syndicated columnist to question the child support system in an article entitled "The Child Support Trap" that appeared in The Washington Times and other newspapers in February, 1995. Excerpts from her column are as follows:

"As the welfare debate heats up, a trap door lies hidden in the floor for unwary conservatives. It is called child support...

Conservatives like the idea of forcing people to take responsibility for their actions and particularly the children they bring into the world.

But by agreeing to place the focus of social policy on obtaining a check from an absent father, instead of on his active, ongoing participation in the business of being a parent, conservatives allow child support enforcement to be a distraction from the real problem—the epidemic of fatherlessness in America.

The liberal position"...is the father is important and valuable to the family as a cash cow, nothing more..;

The father's income is clearly important to the family, but so is his moral strength, the role model he provides for his sons, the love and self-esteem he provides to his daughters, the security his presence imparts to every member of the family. A mountain of psychological and sociological data on the pathology that follows in the wake of illegitimate childbearing ought to close the discussion on whether the father is valuable only for his money...

(CRC would add that non-custodial mothers also ought not to be viewed only as cash cows; but the column went in the right direction sufficiently that it was one of the reasons CRC gave a "Best in Media" award to the Washington Times and various writers on the newspapers, at our 1995 conference. See elsewhere in this issue.

In the Courts
Continued from Page 12

Byrnes v. Caldwell, Pa SuperCt (en banc), No. 978 Phil. 1994, 2/9/95.

Visitation Denial and Child Support

A trial court may not reduce a non-custodial parent's child support obligation in order to punish the other parent for refusing to allow visitation, the Nevada Supreme Court has held. The state's child support guidelines provide no deviations for interference with visitation, the court noted. A parent's non-compliance with a visitation order or agreement does not justify cutting a child support obligation, or refusing to reduce child support arrearages to judgment, the court held. In making the decision, the Supreme Court overruled several Nevada cases that embodied the opposite principle and that were decided prior to enactment of the guidelines.

Westgate (Kemm) v. Westgate; Nev SupCt, No. 24370, 12/22/94.

Visitation Enforcement

A trial court may enforce the payment of attorney's fees owed by one parent to another as a result of the other's costs incurred in enforcement of visitation, the Florida Supreme Court has held. Visitation, like child support, is in the best interests of the child, the court said. There is no reasonable justification for allowing contempt to be used to enforce a fee award in the support enforcement context, but not in the visitation enforcement context, the chartae said.

Chartae v. Chartae, Fla SupCt, No. 83243, 2/9/95.

THE ABOVE CASES ARE SUMMARIZED FROM FAMILY LAW REPORTER. THEY APPEAR HERE BY PERMISSION OF THE PUBLISHER, THE BUREAU OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, INC.

Inside CRC
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(where dad lived) to Los Angeles (where mom lived). The child, who started these flights at age 4, was frightened at flying alone. CRC said that the problem was the immaturity of the parents, who let a young child fly without parental accompaniment, an immaturity which could have expressed itself in normal visitation as well as in joint custody.

The problem was not joint custody, CRC said, but in letting the child fly alone. The Times story also quoted Judith Wallerstein's concerns over joint custody, but CRC pointed out that Wallerstein focuses on the "worst case scenarios," a fact the Times article hints at, but doesn't make clear, rather than focusing on the 95% of parents who do not have serious psychological problems.

To obtain "Blended Families" greeting cards for non-traditional relationships such as the step parent-child, siblings, grandparents and divorced couples and their families, contact Sheila Brayman-Borgese, 49 Ellsworth Drive, West Windsor, NJ 08691, phonw (609) 936-0204.

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Blue-Green Algae

Support CRC and needy children! For your own good health, and/or to start your own business, call or write Cell Tech, c/o CRC for a flyer and free tape to learn about Blue-Green algae. The algae grows in the pure waters of Lake Klamath, Oregon, and is called an aide to good health. CRC will receive a portion of the proceeds from sales by Cell Tech, the company that promotes the Blue-Green algae. In addition, for every ten capsules of Blue-green algae you buy, Cell-Tech will provide one free capsule to undernourished children under a program set up by Cell-Tech in the U.S. and abroad.

24 Hour a Day Information Clearinghouse

Information on hundreds of topics is expected to be available starting this summer on 800 and 900 number lines and mail order through the Divorce and Custody Instant Information Clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse, a new service formed by Clifton A. Clark, a former director of development for CRC, offers instant information on a variety of topics to people who call various organizations around the country. The organizations can refer the inquirers to the 800 or 900 number lines to get quick information on custody and access (visitation), parenting plans, child support, family preservation, family formation, legal custody, and many other topics.

The organization can save time, provide a service to callers, and make money for the group, by use of this 24 hour-a-day Clearinghouse, said Clark.

The organization that has referred the individual to the 800 or 900 lines obtains revenue via their own extension on the 800 or 900 lines and mail order that provides the caller with the requested information.

Faxes containing the requested information can be sent out to callers within 60 seconds after their credit card number is verified. If callers do not have a credit card, they can phone a 900 line, and the charge for the requested information can be billed to their phone number. Either way, the caller gets information quickly and efficiently, said Clark.

There is a nominal monthly charge to the organization, and revenue from use of the service is split between the group and the Clearinghouse he said.

"Custody reform advocates have long needed a full-service clearinghouse of information," said CRC President David L. Levy. "The service being provided by Cliff Clark could help a lot of people." Clark can be reached at (301) 843-9175 (phone) and (301) 843-9484 (fax).

Announcements

PWP Conference

Parents Without Partners (PWP) will hold its 36th International Convention July 6-9, 1995, at the Sheraton New Orleans. The conference theme is "Let the Good Times Roll." The registration fee after June 2 is $210, which includes 2 dinners, a breakfast, a banquet, and ball. There will be an optional jazz cruise on a paddle boat. For information, phone PWP in Chicago at 312-644-6610, extension 3182.

Academy of Family Mediators

The Academy of Family Mediators (AFM) will hold its annual conference July 10-15, 1995, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme is "Reaching for Diversity: Mediation in the 21st Century." The conference will include 50 workshops, numerous plenary sessions, and be preceded by 3 days of Institutes on various topics. For further information, phone AFM in Minnesota at 612-525-8680, or fax your request to 612-525-8725.

Stepfamily Association of America

The Stepfamily Association of America (SAA) will holds its 13th annual conference July 13-16, 1995, in Williamsburg, VA. The theme is "Making New Family History". Speakers will include Elizabeth Einstein, author of "The Stepfamily: Living, Loving and Learning." Cost: $105 single, $200 couple for members; non-members add $15. Kids cost $50 for members, $60 for non-members. For information, phone 1-800-735-0329.

National Congress for Men and Children

The National Congress for Men and Children (NCMC) will hold its annual conference October 10-13, 1995, in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Airport Sheraton. The conference will include talks, workshops and banquet. Cost: $150 with three meals, $100 without meals. For further information, contact George McCasland, P.O. Box 171675, Kansas City, KS, 66167, phone 913-281-9943.

CRC Guideline Available

Copies of the model child support guideline prepared by CRC that is based on a child having two parents are still available from the federal government.

This is the first time that the federal government has ever distributed a guideline that takes into account the direct expenditures on a child by the non-custodial parent.

To obtain a copy of the federal publication, phone (202) 401-9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation," available as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5.00 for CRC members, and $10.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

If you would like to contact Don Bieniewicz, author of the guideline, for his assistance in getting this guideline adopted in the states, write him at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new address to CRC, 220 "I" Street N.W., Suite 200, Washington. DC 20002.

Chapter News

Florida

Abuse Charge

The Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) has cleared Piotr Blass, Ph.D., assistant CRC coordinator in Florida, of charges of child abuse raised during a custody dispute a year earlier. An independent mental health professional found that the charges were unfounded. Blass thanks the hundreds of people, many of whom were his students, colleagues and CRC activists, who wrote to Florida Governor Lawton Chiles and HRS officials asking for a speedy, fair evaluation of the accusations. Blass and his friends often wear a "green" ribbon, "the symbol of hope," a fitting symbol for children's rights activists, said Blass. He said the choice of green is inspired by the writings of Dr. Januse Korczak, a physician who accompanied the children from his orphanage in the Warsaw ghetto to Auschwitz during World War II. Korczak, who was a world-famous pioneer of children's rights, could have escaped, said Blass, but chose to comfort the children during the ride and to die with them.

Indiana

Kinship Care

In an editorial, The Indianapolis Star became the first big city newspaper to formally endorse CRC's welfare reform through kinship care proposal. The editorial (1/29/95) began by acknowledging the economic benefits in an Indiana bill requiring establishment of paternity prior to granting of welfare payments.

The editorial said the reason for such reform is so that children will benefit from having two parents. CRC's Indiana coordinator, David Dinn, is quoted extensively. For example, "We think it's a welfare myth that fathers don't want to be involved. They want to be involved. The system precludes them from being involved."

The editorial goes on to say CRC is "on target when it says welfare reform must promote two-parent families or it will fail." The editorial concludes with "Kinship care is also worthy of study. For far too long, fathers have been excluded from the welfare equation, which is part of the reason why we face a welfare crisis now. For far too long, our policy has been to financially reward welfare mothers for keeping dads away. Getting fathers more involved from the moment of birth will mean more child support and healthier kids. It might even result in a few more marriages."

Under CRC's kinship care proposal, a parent would be ineligible for welfare assistance if a relative were able to financially willing and able to support and care for the child.

Maryland

Three Bills

Maryland custody reform advocates scored three victories in the 1995 Maryland legislative session:

1) the legislature passed a law that allows a court to require the custodial parent to give 45 days written notice to the non-custodial parent and to the court before moving the child out of state or elsewhere within the state. "This notice is important to allow a process by which parents can discuss a proposed move before it occurs, especially in regard to access arrangements," said Harvey Walden, CRC coordinator in Maryland;

2) a bill which would have barred the granting of joint custody in cases of domestic violence was changed to delete any reference to joint custody after CRC President David L. Levy testified that domestic violence was much more associated with sole custody than with joint custody. The bill as amended and passed now says that domestic violence against either parent or a child shall be a factor to be considered in any custody or visitation determination;

3) A bill was passed which raises the age from 12 to 16 under which a child can be considered abducted by a non-custodial parent. Although the bill does not contain any penalty for abduction by a custodial parent, divorce reform advocates in Maryland believe it is important to bring Maryland into line with most states which set the age of possible abduction up to age 16. Al Ellis and Paul Mitchell, leaders of Maryland Families for Divorce Reform, who are CRC members, helped with advocacy on behalf of these bills. A copy of all three new laws, as signed by Governor Parris Glendening, are available from CRC of Maryland for $5.00 for postage and handling (see address of Maryland CRC elsewhere in this issue).

Minnesota

Court Watch

The Rochester, Minnesota, chapter of CRC has instituted a "Court Watch" group for Olmsted County. Tuesday is family law day, and one member of the group sits in the courtroom to observe cases on each day. Both good and bad decisions by the judges will be publicized as Letters to the Editor in local newspapers, or in "Observations," the newsletter of the Minnesota CRC. "We hope judges will be more thoughtful about the decisions they make," said Bruce Kaskubar, CRC coordinator in Minnesota.

New York

Custody Evaluations

The New York State chapter will neutrally review custody, and psychiatric evaluations of individuals for competency in the following areas: A) Ethics Was the evaluation/report done consistenly with ethics of the profession? B) Methodology. How appropriate were the methods utilizied in gathering data and reaching conclusions? C) Content. To what degree is the information presented in the report reliable, dependable and logical? These assessments by licensed or certified mental health professionals can serve as guides to understanding strengths and weakness of the "expert" findings in your case; it is not legal advice. The fee is $50. per hour for CRC members and $60. per hour for non-CRC members. For information, contact Kim Frey, M.S.W., President, CRC-NYS, 607/785-9338.

Chapters Exist in 29 states

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody laws and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

If you would like to learn if a chapter is forming in your state, write or call CRC. If you would like to form a chapter in your state or community west of the Mississippi, write to Eric Anderson, at 12103 Scribe Drive, Austin, TX 78759, phone (512) 836-6621. To form a chapter in a state or community east of the Mississippi, write to Michael Ewing in Virginia, address below.Ask Messrs. Ewing or Anderson for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you want to knwow about affiliation. Enclose $10.00 for photocopying and postage.

Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)
P.O. Box 27417
Houston, TX 77227-7418
Jennifer Isham, president
(800) 457-MWOC
Joint membership in MW/OC and CRC: $35.00 a year

Parents Without Partners (PWP)
401 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Linda Napolitano, president
312-644-6610
Members of PWP join CRC for only $20.00 a year.

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 212
Lincoln, Nebraska 66505
Kevin Ricker, president
(402) 477-7837
Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

CRC Chapters

Alabama
CRC of Alabama
P.O. Box 750
Montrose, AL 36559
E.D. Wilson, coordinator
(205) 928-0464

Alaska
CRC of Alaska
Alaska Dads and Moms
2225 Arctic Boulevard, Ste 303
Anchorage, AK 98503
(907) 274-7358
Gary Maxwell, coordinator

Alaska Family Support Group
P.O. Box 111691
Anchorage, AK 99511-1691
(907) 563-1973

Arkansas
CRC of Arkansas
505 E. 25th St.
Texarkana, AK 75502
(903) 793-4994
Dwayne Hall, coordinator

California
CRC of California, Sacramento chapter
P.O. Box 60811
Sacramento, CA 95860
(916) 635-2590
Patricia Gehlen, coordinator

CRC of California, Solano Chapter
106 Arbor Street
Vacaville, CA 95688
(707) 451-4611
Ivy Walker, chair

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CRC of Colorado
Teardrop Circle
3150 Teardrop Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
(719) 597-MARK
Mark Entreken, coordinator

Connecticut
Divorced Men's Assn. of CT
P.O. Box 380576
E. Hartford, CT 06138-0576
(203) 568-7742
Bob Adams, President

Mothers Protecting Children
P.O. Box 196
Ansonia, CT 06401
Eleanora Drechsel, President
(203) 734-1328

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CRC of Delaware
P.O. Box 182
Bethel, DE 19931
(302) 875-7353
Bill Barrell, coordinator
(302) 734-8522
James Morning, president

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CRC of Southwest Florida
7226 Golf Colony Court, #102
Lake Worth, FL 33467-3993
(407) 967-2636
Howard A. Lemell, chair
Kris Kline state coordinator, (913) 722-8688
Piotr Blass, assistant state coordinator (407) 395-5512

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CRC of Georgia
P.O. Box 70486
Marietta, GA 30007-0486
(404) 928-7110
Sonny Burmeister, coordinator

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CRC of Illinois
P.O. Box 786
Pekin, IL 61555-0786
(309) 697-3235
Ann Danner, coordinator

Indiana
CRC of Indiana
2625 N. Meridian, Suite 202
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 925-5433
David Dinn, coordinator

Grandparent Rights in New Strength (G.R.I.N.S.)
0689 CR 5
Corunna, Indiana 46730
(219) 281-2384
Ray and Kay Berryhill, co-directors

Iowa
CRC of Iowa
Fathers for Equal Rights, Inc.
3623 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 277-8789
Dick Woods, coordinator

Professionals Serving Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents
(515) 263-9511
Eric Borseth, president

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CRC of Kansas/Missouri
5516 Mission Road
Fairway, KS 66205-2721
(913) 831-0190
Roger Doeren, coordinator

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CRC of Kentucky
1645 Robin Road
Owensboro, KY 42301
(502) 684-7495
Tracy Cox, coordinator

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CRC of Maryland
417 Pershing Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 588-0262
Harvey Walden, coordinator

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CRC of Westborough
P.O. Box 933
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 898-1941
Carl Briden, president

CRC of Cape Cod
1 Emily's Lane
Sandwich, MA 02563
(508) 420-1701
Ted Ell, president

Concerned Fathers of Massachusetts, Inc.
P.O. Box 2768
Springfield, MA 01101-2768
(413) 736-7432
George Kelly, president

Michigan
CRC of Michigan
Parents and Grandparents Together
PO Box 653
Edmore, MI 48829
(517) 427-5770
Barbara Toth, president

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CRC of Minnesota
5905 Chateau Road N.
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 289-6221
Bruce Kaskubar, coordinator

Missouri - see Kansas/Missouri

Nebraska
CRC of Nebraska
Non-Custodial Parents of Nebraska
P.O. Box 300
Boys Town, NE 68010-0300
(402) 330-4567
Bill and Lyn Heurter, chairs

CRC of Nebraska-Lincoln chapter
P.O.Box 80414
Lincoln, NE 68010-8908
(402)434-8908
Michael Kaiser, president

New Jersey
New Jersey Council for Children's Rights (NJCCR)
P.O. Box 316
Pluckemin, New Jersey 07978-0316
(201) 694-9323
Richard Martin, president

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CRC of New York
231 Main Street, Suite 1
Vestal, NY 13805
(607) 785-9338
Kim Boedecker-Frey, coordinator

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c/o Mission Advertising
27 W. 24th St. #603
New York, NY 10010
(212) 337-3737
Serge Prengel, president

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Statesville, NC 28677
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Angie Lapish, coordinator

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Toledo, OH 43606
(419) 472-1471
Margaret Wuwert, coordinator

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CRC of Pennsylvania
188 Seminole Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(412) 364-6916
Kathryn Gibson, coordinator

Tennessee
CRC of Tennessee
5914 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37209
David Courson, coordinator

Texas
Children's Rights Coalition (Affiliate)
P.O. Box 12961
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 499-8CRC

Vermont
Vermonters for Strong Families
RR1, Box 267A
Heartland, VT 05048
(802) 436-3089
Fred Tubbs, coordinator

Virginia
CRC of Virginia, Tidewater chapter
P.O. Box 13465
Chesapeake, VA 23325
(804) 463-KIDS
Michael Ewing, president
Cindy Lewis Ewing, coordinator

CRC of Virginia, Richmond chapter
8923 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 740-9889
Murray Steinberg, president

Fathers United for Equal Rights and Women's Coalition
P.O. Box 1323
Arlington, VA 22210-1323
(703) 451-8580
Paul Robinson, president

CRC of Virginia, Roanoke Valley chapter
433 Howard Drive
Salem, VA 24153
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Barry Young, president

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Children's Rights Council's 9th National Conference ... Children First
March 29 - April 2, 1995

_ CR01 An Overview of Parenting Education in the U.S.: Elizabeth Hickey, Michael Oddenino (part 1 of 2)
_ CR02 An Overview of Parenting Education in the U.S.: Elizabeth Hickey, Michael Oddenino (part 1 of 2)
_ CR03 Parenting Education Campaign Kick-off
_ CR04 Capitol Hill Family Policy Symposium (part 1 of 2)
_ CR05 Capitol Hill Family Policy Symposium (part 2 of 2)
_ CR06 How to Conduct a Child Custody Evaluation: Phil Stahl
_ CR07 Media Relations from a Journalist's Perspective: Cathy Young, Joe Hallinan, Cheryl Wetzstein
_ CR08 Welfare Reform and Comprehensive Child Support in the U.S. and Abroad: David Gray Ross, Eloise Anderson
_ CR09 Presentation of Awards and Greetings (part 1 of 2)
_ CR10 Presentation of Awards and Greetings (part 2 of 2)
_ CR11 Why Shared Parenting is Good For Women: Karen DeCrow, Judge Minna Buck, Rosaire Nottage
_ CR12 New Research on Access/Visitation: Sanford Braver
_ CR13 Congressional Update on Child Support and Child Access Policies: Ron Haskins, Ron Henry
_ CR15 Why Dads and Moms are Equally Important to Kids: Warren Farrell
_ CR16 What Works: Advocacy at the State Level
_ CR17 Advocating for Children and Youth - We are the Ones: Mark Riley
_ CR18 How to Prepare Your Child for College: Charles Perkins
_ CR19 Dr. Thomas Gordon's Parent Effectiveness Training - Raising Responsible Children: Tom Lippman
_ CR20 Mediation - The Wave of the Future: Lawrence Gaughan
_ CR21 Grandparents and Grandchildren Together: Kay and Ray Berryhill
_ CR22 How to Work with State Legislators: Dana Dembrow (MD), Robert Calhoon (VA), Dick Schafroth (OH)
_ CR23 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Michael Hirschensohn
_ CR24 Protocols for Sex Abuse Evaluations in Child Custody Disputes: Richard Gardner
_ CR25 Developing Your Advocacy Presentation: Richard Martin
_ CR26 Being a Mentor to New Chapter Members: Cindy Ewing, Sonny Burmeister
_ CR27 How to "Win" Joint Custody in Contested Cases: Jim Cook, Israel Lichtenstein
_ CR28 Developing Your Pro Se Case: Bob Vinik
_ CR29 Preparing for a Child Custody Evaluation: Phil Stahl, Lynn Shreve
_ CR30 Encouraging Family Formation & Preservation at Hospitals Through Voluntary Parentage Establishment: Laurie Casey
_ CR31 Litigating Interstate Child Custody Cases - Understanding the UCCJA & the PKPA: Michael Oddenino, Anne Mitchell
_ CR32 Maximizing a Child's Access to the Non-Custodial Parent: Jim Milko
_ CR33 Resolving Disputes About Children - Research & Policy Issues: Joan B. Kelly
_ CR34 Results of Federally-Funded Access/Visitation Demonstration Projects: David A. Price, Dick Woods, David Arnaudo
_ CR35 A Review of "Fatherless America": Anna Keller Joint Custody Research: John Bauserman
_ CR36 How to Start a CRC Chapter: Eric Anderson, Cindy Ewing
_ CR37 Book & Author Luncheon: Margorie Engel, Riki Jones, Richard Sauber, Gerald Weeks, Melinda Blau, Constance Ahrons, Phil Stahl, Adrian Cronauer
_ CR38 Empowering the Reform Movement: Ron Henry

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Here are *Some SPECIAL ADDITIONS* to the

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for parents and professionals

The CRC catalog lists more than 60 books, written reports, audio-cassettes, model bills, and gifts for children. Members can receive additional free copies of the catalog by contacting CRC. Non-members can order one for $1. Write: CRC, 220 "I" Street, NE, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20002-4362.

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Conducting Child Custody Evaluations

A Comprehensive Guide
by ***PHILIP MICHAEL STAHL,***
Psychologist in Private Practice, Dublin, California.

Conducting Child Custody Evaluations presents a detailed examination of the many complex questions and issues involved in this process. Practical guidelines for completing evaluations are provided, including helpful information on interviewing parents and children, testifying in court, writing custody evaluations, working with attorneys, getting paid, and working in an ethical manner.

260 pages / $23.95 (p)
(48212)

Protocols for Sex-Abuse Evaluation

Richard A. Gardner, M.D.

Since the early 1980s, Dr. Richard A. Gardner has been developing criteria for differentiating between true and false sex-abuse accusations. Over the years he has noted that there was no good protocol for conducting such evaluation s. Psychiatrists, in accordance with their training, tend to focus on background history, the mental status, and data necessary for a diagnosis. Most often, all this information is of little probative value in a sex-abuse accusation. Furthermore, few protocols are available, protocols specifically designed to enable examiners to differentiate between true and false accusations.

It was from these observations that Dr. Gardner devised a series of protocols which, he believes, should prove useful for examiners involved. $40 a copy.

HEALING HEARTS

Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W. & Elizabeth Dalton, J.D.

This exciting new guidebook by two of America's leading experts on parenting education will teach adults how to allow their children continue to grow with the love of both Mom *and* Dad. The wealth of information shared can help restore hearts and emotions, while parents develop a new way of living as co-parents who have the child's best interest at heart. "Healing Hearts" will help adults to work in partnership to parent their children, overcome anger, and rebuild self-esteem before or after divorce. This book can turn divorce into an opportunity to develop great tolerance, forgiveness, and love. CRC is pleased to have author Elizabeth Hickey, MSW as our Director of Parenting Education!

ONLY $19.99 FROM CRC

Warren Farrell, Ph.D. has viewed life from the perspective of a board member of N.O.W. in New York City, and as an advocate for women listening to men. He also understands the need of children for both a father and a mother. Farrell is an engaging writer and speaker, and his books and tapes are popular.

Books:
The Myth of Male Power **SB $13.00**
The Liberated Man **SB $6.00**
Why Men Are the Way They Are **SB $6.00**

Audiotapes:
Understanding Each Other **$17.95**
The Myth of Male Power **$17.00**
Why Men Are the Way They Are **$16.00**

Nancy Porter/Thal has written several books as part of her Parent Education course under the auspices of HMCS: The Training Company, in Ft. Myers Florida. Ms. Porter/Thal has taught parenting education classes in various parts of the country, and these books can be used to help other people involved in parenting education.

Teachers, Children, Parents and Divorce **$12.00**— Secific instructions for school teachers who want to help their students deal with the problems of divorce. Also offers tips for parents.
Parents, Children and Divorce **$9.00**
Divorce Matters **$9.00**

OtherBooks:
Negotiating Love by Riki Jones, Ph.D. **$10.00**
Marital Relationship Carebook, by Gerald Weeks, Ph.D. **$31.95**
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PS 025117

TEXAS PASSES PRESUMPTIVE JOINT CUSTODY; MAKES NUMEROUS OTHER CHANGES IN LAW

A sweeping family law bill that for the first time in Texas establishes a policy that joint custody is in the best interest of children in divorce cases was signed into law June 16, 1995, by Governor George W. Bush.

The new law, which took effect on September 1, 1995, tells judges to presume that joint custody is the best arrangement for the child.

Previous law allowed judges to award joint custody (called "joint managing conservatorship" in Texas), but did not presume that such an arrangement was in the child's best interest.

(Note: joint custody is generally defined as parents sharing in the major decision-making affecting the child, and the child having at least a third of the time on a year round basis with each parent).

In addition to making joint custody a rebuttable presumption, the new law also

- requires parents to first make a "good faith" attempt to solve disputes through mediation;
- makes it easier to shift sole custody of a child of any age to the other parent by showing the change would be "a positive improvement for the child", thus eliminating the need to show "injury" to the child in the previous household;
- gives non-custodial parents more rights, including make-up of visitation;
- strengthens the law that discourages false abuse allegations; and
- allows parents to agree to binding arbitration.

Other legislative action

- requires each parent to inform the other parent of "significant information concerning the health, education, and welfare of the child";
- allows for post-divorce alimony, which must be used to pursue education or job training;
- provides for license revocation for failure to pay court-ordered financial child support, but with due process protection;
- reforms adoption procedures.

Joint Custody Sponsors

Harris

Goodman

Continued on page 3

Attend CRC's 10th National Conference April 24-28, 1996
at the luxurious Crowne Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia

"Speak Out for Children" is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editor: David L. Levy. Contributors to this issue: Michael Ewing, Kenneth Skilling, Don Bieniewicz, Derrick Hicks, Virginia Ballingee, Stuart Miller; college student interns Cindy Brolin, Lafayette College; Mary K. Curry, University of Florida; Marilyn Duffy, Notre Dame; Heather Faas, University of Iowa; Laura Goldstein, University of Michigan; Christine Lin, Duke University; Karen Mlynarczyk, Duke University; Lauren Sloane, Brandeis University. Newsletter layout by Shari Sternberg.

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CHILDREN'S CHARITIES of AMERICA

About CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, DC.

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and in the event of separation. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for comprehensive child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in divorce reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 30 states and three national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC), Parents Without Partners (PWP), and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

For further information about membership, publications, cassettes, catalog and services, write: CRC, 220 'I' Street N.E., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20002; phone (202) 547-6227; fax (202) 546-4CRC (4272).

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Baltimore, Maryland

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Stepfamily Association of America
Lincoln, Nebraska

North Dakota Ranks #1

CRC Interns (left to right) Lauren Sloane, Marilyn Duffy, Laura Goldstein, Karen Mlynarczyk, Heather Fass, Prepare "Top Ten States" Report

North Dakota was determined to be the best state to raise children, according to a recent state-by-state analysis conducted by the Children's Rights Council.

CRC ranked all states according to a wide range of criteria and released the "Top Ten States to Raise Children" report on July 26, 1995.

Each state was ranked in eight categories and then classified in relation to all other states. Categories included the rate of divorce, percentage of intact families, public school expenditures per pupil, public high school graduation rate, infant mortality rate, crime rate, percentage of unwed births, and percentage of children in poverty.

The top ten states were (1) North Dakota (2) New Hampshire (3) Nebraska/Iowa (4) Vermont (5) Wisconsin (6) Minnesota (7) Wisconsin (8) Connecticut (9) New Jersey (10) Wyoming.

The day the report was released was the busiest media day in CRC history. Three TV cameras were in the CRC office for a press conference, representing CNN, COX Broadcast TV, and Channel 8 (Washington, DC area). Plus, our report was carried on the AP Newspaper and AP Radio wires, each representing more than 2,000 clients. We were on CNN at least four times, and Good Morning America Thursday, July 27.

Over a three day period, almost 100 radio and TV stations around the country, most of whom had seen the report on an AP wire, phoned the CRC office asking for more information about their state's ranking and criteria used.

CRC officers and eight CRC summer 1995 interns, who had worked to prepare the report from established statistics published by such sources as the Census Bureau, the FBI, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, spoke on more than a dozen of the radio shows by phone.

It is believed that scores of other radio and TV stations used the data without calling CRC for additional information.

CRC found that spending on education did not necessarily correlate with high school graduation rates. For example, although the District of Columbia ranked 2nd in public school spending per child, it ranked 49th in the number of its students who graduate from high school.

We also found, as CRC Georgia coordinator Sonny Burmeister previously found in his analysis of research, that the states with the highest number of intact families have the lowest poverty rate. See Speak Out for Children Winter 1993/1994.

CRC plans to update its "10 Best States" annually. We hope next year to add an objective measurement of states' treatment of families of divorce, to add to the three family factors we accounted for this year.

Joint Custody

Continued from page 1

Texas State Senator Chris Harris and State Representative Tobi Goodman were the prime sponsors of the joint custody bill, which ran into stiff opposition, but was passed with the assistance of many legislators, the Children's Rights Coalition (an affiliate of CRC), and the Texas Fathers Alliance. "The Texas Father's Alliance wishes to thank Gov. Bush for doing what is best for children" said group President David Shelton in the Houston Chronicle on June 17.

Senator Harris told CRC "Basically, what we are saying is that, where possible, let's turn down the conflict and turn up the cooperation during a custody hearing. Where possible, a child who had two parents before the divorce should still have two parents after the divorce. We're moving past the idea that one parent gets the kids, and the other parent becomes only a visitor who sends a check."

Rep. Goodman told CRC "I have probably handled about 7,000 cases in 21 years of practicing family law in Tarrant County (Ft. Worth) Texas. The fact that two people can't get along and are divorcing should not result in children losing a parent. Both parents need to continue to be involved in a child's life. Child support is an important factor, but equally as important is the child maintaining contact in a relationship with both parents."

Eric Anderson, president of the Children's Rights Coalition, said "It is important to have a continuing presence in the legislature. We had one or two advocates in Austin every day of the session, from January through May 1995, explaining the position of the Children's Rights Coalition to the legislators and their staffs. We took a very positive attitude, providing facts, and being available to answer questions. It takes numerous contacts with busy staff to get points across."

For the applicable portions of the bill, send $5.00 for postage and handling to Children's Rights Coalition, Post Office Box 12961, Austin, Texas, 78711.

In CRC's review of state law, all states with the exception of South Carolina now allow joint custody. In 14 of the states which allow joint custody, joint custody is a presumption. Those states are California (where there is technically no presumption for sole or joint custody, but there is a widespread practice of awarding joint custody), Florida (where it is called shared parenting), Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah.

CRC'S TENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Family Values Means Valuing Families
10 years of Kids and CRC

will be held at the luxurious
Crowne Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia
April 24-28, 1996

Invited Speakers include:
House Speaker Newt Gingrich
Former President Jimmy Carter
Former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young

plus leading professionals to discuss
child custody move-away issues, access/visitation, parental kidnapping,
and real abuse and false abuse allegations

We will have more panels and professional presenters than ever before!
Don't miss this 10th national conference!

Capture the flavor of the Summer Olympics
Optional visits to Stone Mountain and Civil War Historical Sites

This is the first time in 10 years that CRC holds its conference outside Washington, DC.
Atlanta, the spirit of the games, the luxurious hotel, and the outstanding speakers,
guarantee a terrific conference!

The 15-story Crowne Plaza features full-time concierge, indoor pool, fitness center, lighted tennis courts, sauna and Jacuzzi, and ten wooded acres of winding footpaths and waterfalls. Located across from Perimeter Mall, one of Atlanta's premier shopping centers and Food Court, the hotel is just 30 minutes by scheduled shuttle from Hartsfield International Airport, and 20 minutes to downtown and exciting Underground Atlanta.

CRC has arranged for a special conference room rate of only $99.00 a night (1-4 persons per room). These rooms regularly go for $160. to $180. a night.

Make your reservations early!

CEU's for psychologists, attorneys and mediators applied for.
Conference attendance certificates available for all conference attendees.

White House Publishes Memo Supporting Fathers

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 16, 1995

June 16, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Supporting the Role of Fathers in Families

I am firm in my belief that the future of our Republic depends on strong families and that committed fathers are essential to those families. I am also aware that strengthening fathers' involvement with their children cannot be accomplished by the Federal Government alone; the solutions lie in the hearts and consciences of individual fathers and the support of the families and communities in which they live. However, there are ways for a flexible, responsive Government to help support men in their roles as fathers.

Therefore, today I am asking the Federal agencies to assist me in this effort. I direct all executive departments and agencies to review every program, policy, and initiative (hereinafter referred to collectively as "programs") that pertains to families to:

- ensure, where appropriate, and consistent with program objectives, that they seek to engage and meaningfully include fathers;
- proactively modify those programs that were designed to serve primarily mothers and children, where appropriate and consistent with program objectives, to explicitly include fathers and strengthen their involvement with their children;
- include evidence of father involvement and participation, where appropriate, in measuring the success of the programs; and
- incorporate fathers, where appropriate, in government-initiated research regarding children and their families.

I ask the departments and agencies to provide an initial report on the results of the review to the Vice President through the National Performance Review within 90 days of the date of this memorandum.

The information gained from this review will be combined with information gathered through the Vice President's "Father to Father" initiative and other father involvement programs to determine the direction of those programs for the future. The National Performance Review, together with the Domestic Policy Council, will recommend further action based on the results of this review.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

If you have ideas relative to the above memorandum, write to

Vice President Al Gore
National Performance Review
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Provide objective, sensible suggestions on how the federal government can carry out the purposes of the Memorandum.

Parents' Day Celebrated

Three days of events in Washington, D.C., culminated in recognition of the U.S.'s first annual Parents Day on July 23, 1995.

The National Parent's Day Foundation, a group formed a year ago by Dr. Robert Grant, Ph.D., asked Congress to declare the fourth Sunday in July as Parent's Day. Congress did so.

"America is in trouble because America's families are in crisis," Grant said in thousands of flyers distributed at the celebration. "It is a time for action in our homes, in our community groups, in our religious institutions, and, above all, in our individual lives."

Grant, who was raised in a single parent home, has spoken of the need of children for the love and affection of both parents.

The Foundation got organizations such as Hallmark Cards, the Washington Times, and Amtrak, to fund what was for the most part a volunteer effort to publicize the events and to obtain support from other organizations.

The events in Washington included a prayer breakfast, children's festival, and awards ceremony, which recognized the efforts of parents from all American families, including intact families, divorced families, and stepfamilies.

Pat and Shirley Boone were national chaircouple, and entertainer Lola Falana participated.

Parents Without Partners, a national affiliate of CRC, and CRC, were among the more than 100 groups that supported the Parents' Day efforts. PWP's international vice president for community relations Frank Anderson of Massachusetts and other PWP members represented PWP at the events in Washington.

The Foundation is located at 7777 Leesburg Pike, Suite 314N, Falls Church, VA 22043, (703) 790–8700, Fax (703) 790–8711.

The Foundation plans to sponsor another Parent's Day in 1996.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Work & Family

By Sue Shellenbarger

The Wall Street Journal - June 21, 1995

Bill Galston Tells the President: My Son Needs Me More

Bill Galston

People quit jobs all the time to spend more time with family. But they aren't usually men in policy-making roles in the White House.

Bill Galston was at the peak of his career when he resigned recently as a domestic policy advisor to President Clinton to return to teaching at the University of Maryland. He wanted to "strike a new balance" between work and life with his family, particularly his 10-year-old son, he says.

Few people have paid such a high career price for family time. A look at his decision provides a glimpse of life on the razor's edge of work-family conflict, when two commitments—one to a job, the other to a child—simply can't be reconciled.

Mr. Galston, an ex-Marine, professor and advisor to the Progressive Policy Institute, a Democratic think tank, had worked on losing presidential campaigns for John Anderson, Walter Mondale and Al Gore before he was tapped to join the administration. After more than a decade of getting trounced at the polls, the slight, bespectacled scholar—at 49 already older than many Clinton aides—was bringing into government ideas he had nurtured for years behind the scenes.

At the White House, his influence was evident in the president's call last January for a national campaign against teen pregnancy, an idea Mr. Galston had worked on as a private scholar. He planned the national service program, worked on education reform and Head Start legislation and consulted with administration officials on matters from affirmative action to consumers moods.

"He had an excellent reputation, and he loved his job," says Gene Sperling, an economic policy advisor who shared an office with Mr.Galston.

No Ordinary Relationship

Also at stake was no ordinary father-son relationship. In a speech last fall before the National Fatherhood Initiative, an advocacy group, Mr. Galston said of his son Ezra: "Fatherhood for me has been the most deeply transformative experience in my life. Nothing else is a close second. It is a prism through which I see the world."

Mr. Galston tried many of the usual ways to integrate his child with his workaholic schedule. Though he worked 12-hour days, he often brought Ezra to his White House office on the evenings his wife, a law professor, taught classes.

"He'd flop down on the floor of my office, do his homework, and we talked," Mr. Galston says. When he was called into meetings, his effort to be two places at once "got to be a joke" among staffers, as he ran back and forth to check on his son, a White House aide says.

When Mr. Sperling complimented him on his "Herculean efforts" to juggle everything, Mr. Galston look at him and said "It may show a lot of effort, but it's still no way for a 10-year-old to be treated."

Many afternoons, he missed Ezra's Little League games; the child started rising at 6 a.m. because it was "one of the few periods I could be counted on to be around the house," Mr. Galston says. Many evenings, he came home "so wrung out that even though I was technically physically present at 8:30, I wasn't present in any other meaningful sense." After seeing Ezra to bed, he sometimes headed back to work at 10 p.m.

He made the rounds of meetings and conferences, often speaking on the welfare of children. A frequent theme was one he laid out in "Putting Children First," a 1991 monograph written at the Progressive Police Institute with Elaine Kamarck (now an aide to Vice President Gore): The acid test of any societal change is how kids are served, and "somehow our nation has gotten socially and culturally poorer" in that regard, he says. His speeches and writings on revitalizing the nation's civic life drew bipartisan praise.

All the while, Mr. Galston sensed that his own house was in disorder, that "the sand was running through the hourglass" of his son's childhood, he says.

Ezra's Letter

Then came Ezra's letter. Headed "Baseball's Not Fun," the note to his father began: "Baseball's not fun where there's no one there to applaud you." There followed a litany of achievements that Mr. Galston had missed; hitting a triple and a double, stealing home and catching the first pop-up of the game. If his father was there to watch, "baseball would be fun," the letter said.

"It's not the kind of letter that a father is apt to forget," Mr. Galston says. Clearly, "what seemed like a minimally tolerable balance from my standpoint was not acceptable from his." Worse than his son's anger, he acknowledges, was his own private fear that the child might simply resign himself to his absence.

"These days, kids 12 and 13 are teenagers, looking to their peers much more than their parents," he says. He feared that if he "let those two years go by without reengaging fully in my family....there would be a significant price." To a co-worker, surprised by his resignation, he said, "I told the president: You can replace me and my son can't."

It's easy to dismiss Mr. Galston's dilemma as an accident of timing. Families needs ebb and flow, and his job of a lifetime got caught in a high tide. It makes sense, too, that a man who calls finding better ways to integrate parenthood and work "one of the important agendas before our society in the next 20 years" would change jobs to improve his own work-family schedule.

But if Mr. Galston and others are right—if we as a society are beginning to agree that the declining welfare of kids is a problem and that we need to put children first—we may see more decisions like his.

(Article reprinted with permission.)

Continued on page 7

Going Away Party

Continued from page 6

(Note: Galston opened the doors of the White House to advocates of the two–parent family during his 2 and 1/2 years at the White House, inviting researchers, writers, and advocates, including CRC representatives, to meetings to discuss family issues. CRC President David L. Levy was invited to the going away party for Galston at the White House in June. At the going–away party, Levy gave an autographed copy of the CRC Book The Best Parent is Both Parents to Vice President Gore, who, along with President and Mrs. Clinton, spoke of the contributions Galston had made to public policy. Galston's son, Ezra Moses also spoke, saying that now he would see more of his father.)

National Congress for Fathers and Children

The National Congress for Fathers and Children (NCFAC) will hold its annual conference October 10–13, 1995 in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Airport Sheraton. The conference will include talks, workshops and banquet. Cost: $150 with three meals, $100 without meals. For further information, contact George McCasland, P.O. Box 171675, Kansas City, KS 66117, phone 913–281–9943.

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new address to CRC, 220 I Street N..E., Suite 200, Washington. DC 20002.

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

If you would like to consider leaving a bequest or property in your will to CRC, please let CRC know of your generosity.

Contact your accountant or tax advisor on the best way to structure any such bequest.

Or contact CRC, and we can suggest an accountant or tax advisor to assist you.

More News about 1995 Conference

News about CRC's 9th National Conference March 29 through April 2, 1995 appeared in the Spring, 1995 newsletter. Additional information below.

Workshops

Workshops at the conference were

* What Works: Advocacy at the State Level. CRC state coordinators Richard Martin (NJ), Eric Anderson (TX), Michael Ewing (VA).
* Advocacy for Children and Youths; We are the Ones. Mark Riley, Child Welfare League of America.
* How to Prepare your Child for College. Charles Perkins, General Manager, Roanoke G.E. Employees Federal Credit Union, Salem, VA.
* Dr. Thomas Gordon's Parent Effectiveness Training—Raising Responsible Children. Tom Lippman, certified trainer since 1991.
* Mediation – The Wave of the Future. Lawrence Gaughan, Esq., Director, Family Mediation of Greater Washington, D.C.
* Grandparents and Grandchildren Together. Kay and Ray Berryhill, co–founders of Grandparents Rights in New Strength (G.R.I.N.S.) Corunna, IN.
* How to Work with State Legislators. Robert Calhoon, VA State Senate; Dick Schafrath, OH State Senate; Dana Dembrow, MD House of Delegates. Michael Ewing, Moderator.
* Developing Your Advocacy Presentation. Richard Martin, New Jersey Council for Children's Rights.
* Being a Mentor to New Chapter Members. Sonny Burmeister, CRC of Georgia.
* "How to Win"Joint Custody in Contested Cases. Jim Cook, President, Joint Custody Association.
* Preparing for a Child Custody Evaluation. Philip Stahl, Ph.D., Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and Lynn Shreve, Vice President–Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).
* Encouraging Family Formation and Preservation at Hospitals Through Voluntary Parentage Establishment. Laurie Casey, CRC Senior Policy Analyst.
* Litigating Interstate Child Custody Cases: Understanding the UCCJA and the PKPA. Michael Oddenino, and Ann Mitchell, Esquire, founder of F.R.E.E.
* Maximizing a Child's Access to the Non–Custodial Parent. Jim Milko, Esq., from Gerald Solomon's Maryland law firm.
* How to Handle Pro–se Litigation. Bob Vinik, New Jersey.
* Mike Hirschensohn, on his international legal action as an unwed father seeking contact with his daughter Victoria, a teenager whom he has not seen in more than 9 years.

Vinik and Hirschensohn replaced Jennifer Isham of Mothers Without Custody, and Donald Smith and Leslee Newman, who were to present workshops, but who could not attend the conference.

Bieniewicz Wins Sculpture

Don Bieniewicz won a sculpture by Ellis Island sculptor Phil Ratner entitled Young Man with Sack valued at $2,500. The foot–high sculpture, depicting a young man, his belongings slung over his shoulder in a sack upon landing at Ellis Island, had been donated to CRC by Ratner.

Made from the original materials of the Statute of Liberty, which were replaced during the structural modifications made several years ago, the sculpture is part of a limited edition collection.Various Ratner sculptures are on view at the Ellis Island sculpture garden in New York.

The sculpture was raffled at the conference; the winning raffle ticket was picked by an exchange student who attended the conference.

"It is fitting that Don Bieniewicz, who wrote the CRC child support guideline published by the U.S. government, should be the winner of this beautiful, valuable sculpture," said CRC Director of Administration Derrick Hicks.

CRC's 1996 Conference in Atlanta

Awards Time Again

At the 1996 conference CRC will present the annual Chief Justice Warren E. Burger award for "healers" among lawyers, judges, and others, and its annual Media Awards and Active Parenting Awards. The awards consist of engraved plaques. Nominations should be received by February 28, 1996.

A "Healer" might be:

* *a judge who takes the lead in promoting joint custody (shared parenting);*
* *an attorney who has had an impact on the legal community or a state legislature on behalf of a child's right to two parents and extended family (this is a revised criteria for attorneys).*

For Media Awards possible contenders are:

* *best treatment of children and parents of divorce in the news media (including newspapers, magazines, TV and radio coverage);*
* *best media coverage of a county agency that provides programs for teenage parents, or*
* *best TV series on abuse and false abuse charges.*

For Active Parenting, possible contenders are:

* *programs that help with family formation and family preservation;*
* *programs that help parents do better parenting in the event of divorce.*

Send "Healer" awards nominations to:
Vicki Lansky
Practical Parenting
18326 Minnetonka Blvd.
Deephaven, MN 55391–3200
((617) 475–3527

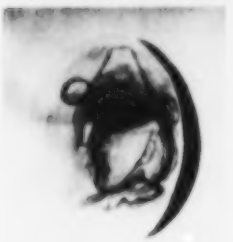
Send "Best in Media" award nominations to:
James Morning, coordinator
CRC of Delaware
216 Bradley Road
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 734–8522

Send "Active Parenting" nominations to:
Eric Anderson
12103 Scribe Drive
Austin, TX 78758
(512) 836–6621

FAMILY FACTS

Photocopy and distribute the **"Family Facts"** on the next page! Use as hand-outs when visiting the Legislature, disseminating information to the courts or the media, or as a resource for testimony and Letters to the Editor. **"Family Facts"** will be a regular feature of this Newsletter. Send us your verified facts (with actual copies, sources, and dates) to **"Family Facts"** CRC.

Buy Raffles
Win a Picasso Print



"Tete"

An anonymous donor has given CRC a Picasso print, valued at $1,000, to raffle at our 1996 conference.

An inscription on the back of the print says *"Limited edition, re-creation of an oil on canvas entitled 'Tete' by Pablo Picasso created on August 1, 1937. Approved by the estate of Pablo Picasso."*

Only 750 raffle tickets will be printed. The tickets are $2. each, or three for $5. The drawing for the print will be Saturday, April 27, 1996. You do not have to attend the CRC conference to win. Complete the Raffle Ticket form below and mail in.

Raffle Ticket

Send me _____ tickets are $2. each, or 3 from $5.00

Charge: MC Visa AmEX
CC:
_____
Exp. date
_____
OR amount enclosed

Name
_____

Address
_____

_____

Phone No (_____)_____

Fill out the form above, and mail to:
Dr. Gary Santora, 6723 Whittier Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

FAMILY FACTS

Child Support

The General Accounting Office (a federal government agency) reports that:

Fact #1: 66 percent of mothers with a child support award who did not receive payment from the father say it is because the fathers are unable to pay. The 66 percent figure is reported by the custodial mothers regardless of whether the fathers live in the same state or in a different state from the mother.

Fact #2: Where there is no child support award and the fathers live in the same state; 53 percent of the mothers said they did not want support or did not ask for it or other financial considerations were made in lieu of support,or that she was unable to establish paternity, 17 percent of the mothers report that the father is too poor to pay, 6 percent report that a final agreement is pending; totaling 76 percent of mothers who say support collection is not an issue in their case.

Fact #3: Where there is no child support award and the fathers live in another state, the mothers report the above figures are 49 percent, 12 percent, and 7 percent, for a total of 68 percent where child support is not an issue.

Fact #4: The same study says that 28 percent of fathers classified as living in "other" locations could be either living with the mother or dead.

Source: General Accounting Office (GAO) Report. Ask for: GAO/HRD-92-39 FS-Mothers Report Receiving, issued January 9, 1993.

Background: The study was made at the request of Sen. Bill Bradley (D-NJ), and Congresswomen Marge Roukema (R-NJ) and Barbara Kennelly (D-CT) because they told the GAO that there was "a lack of reliable data on interstate child support cases."

Crime

Survey results by the U.S. Department of Justice on young people in state-operated juvenile institutions:

Fact #1: 90 percent are males.

Fact #2: Nearly 40 percent held for violent offenses.

Fact #3: 70 percent did not live with both parents while growing up; 54 percent lived primarily in single-parent families.

Source: Allen J. Beck and Susan A. Kline, "Survey of Youth in Custody, 1987", U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report (September 1988), pp. 1-2

The Relationship between Child Support and Access

The U.S. Census Bureau (a federal government agency) reports that:

Fact #1: Fathers with joint custody pay 90.2 percent of their child support; fathers with visitation pay 79.1 percent of their child support; and fathers with neither joint custody nor visitation pay only 44.5 percent of their child support.

Fact #2: 54.9 percent of fathers had visitation privileges as of Spring 1990; an additional 7.3 percent of fathers had joint custody of their children; the remaining 37.8 percent of fathers had neither joint custody nor visitation rights.

Source: Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P-60, No. 173, Child Support and Alimony: 1989, prepared by Gorden H. Lester, issued by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, issued September 1991.

Substance Abuse

A team of psychologists from UCLA did an eight-year study of 654 young people involving the influence of family on teenage drug abuse.

Fact #1: Results show that family is the most important factor influencing drug use. Early parental influence "exerted potent and pervasive influence on teenagers that apparently continues for many years into adulthood."

Fact #2: Drug use in teens is also encouraged by inadequate family structure and lack of positive familial relationships. Drugs in these situations are used as coping mechanisms to relieve depression and anxiety.

Source: Judith A. Stein, et al, "An 8-Year Study of Multiple Influences on Drug Use and Drug Use Consequences," Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 53 No. 6 (December 1987), pp. 1094-1105.

Sex

A University of North Carolina and Planned Parenthood study of more than 1,100 junior high school students revealed that:

Fact: daughters in one-parent homes (without fathers) were much more likely to engage in premarital sex than daughters in two-parent homes.

Source: Susan Newcomer and J. Richard Udry, "Parental Marital Status Effects on Adolescent Sexual Behavior," Journal of Marriage and the Family, 49, No. 2 (May 1987), pp. 235-240.

Children's Rights Council

Number 1513
in the National Combined Federal Campaign,
United Way and Workplace Campaign

We are a member of the Children's Charities of America (CCA). Look for CCA's Listing in the front section of the CFC Brochure, then turn to the page given for CCA's members. We are number 1513.

CHILDREN'S CHARITIES of AMERICA

YOU MUST DESIGNATE 1513 FOR CRC TO RECEIVE FUNDS.

A Decade of CRC Accomplishments

- **Worked to establish a Presidential Commission on Child & Family Welfare** with an emphasis on access/visitation. This included a successful campaign to fund the commission.
- **Passed landmark children's rights legislation** in several states with the assistance of more than 35 **CRC Chapters at State and Local levels**.
- **Spearheaded & Developed Parenting Education programs** in several states through legislation and private-public partnership funding.
- **Filed several "Friend of the Court" briefs** in support of children's rights in courts across the country.
- **Assisted parents in having their kidnapped children returned**.
- **Educated policymakers in Congress and the State** about the importance of Parenting Education.
- **Will hold our 10th National Conference in the spring of 1996**, with presentations by **Administration Officials, Members of Congress, Mental Health and legal professionals** interested in a child's right to two parents and extended family.
- **Published the book "The Best Parent is Both Parents"** with special praise from the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton and book reviewers across the United States.
- **The Federal Government's Office for Child Support Enforcement published CRC's Child Support Guidelines**, developed by Don Bieniewicz, in their publication, Child Support-the Next Generation.
- **Grown from an volunteer organization to a professionally staffed, Capitol Hill, Education & Advocacy organization with 38 chapters in 30 states**.

The Children's Rights Council is a national non-profit organization at 220 I St. NE #200. Washington, D.C. 20002-4362. Phone: 202/547-6227 Fax: 202/546-4272. To obtain a copy of our Catalog of Resources, Directory of Parenting Organizations, Affiliation Book, Annual Report, or latest audit, write or call CRC. Thank You

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All artwork trademarked or trademark pending, CRC

Bills and Resolutions in Congress

We are including important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. A bill, unlike a resolution, requires a state or parent to do something; a resolution expresses the wishes of Congress, but does not require action. H. or H.R. refers to the House of Representatives, S. refers to the Senate. The phone number of the committee handling the bill is provided below; you may call to check on the status of legislation, or express your views. It is even more important to let your own Representative and Senators know your views, the capitol switchboard, which can connect you with the officers of all members of Congress and committees, is (202) CA4–3121 (224–3121). This is a 24–hour switchboard, that can provide you night and day with names, addresses and direct phone numbers of all members of Congress. During normal business hours on weekdays, the switchboard can connect you with any Congressional office on Capitol Hill. To save on expenses, you can contact the Congressmembers' local branch office in your district.

Kinship Care Proposed

Kinship care, under which children who have been abused and neglected can be placed with relatives (kin) as an alternative to foster care, is provided for in the House Welfare Reform Bill (H.R. 4), but is not in Senate welfare bills.

In addition to kinship care for abuse and neglect cases, CRC also seeks to allow kinship care as an alternative to welfare for child placement.

Please write your Senators as follows:

Senator —
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Please pass "kinship care" as part of the Welfare Reform bill in the Senate. Kinship care, which means that family members should be preferred as an alternative to foster care for child placement, is already in the House–passed Welfare Reform bill (the Wyden amendment). We urge the Senate to pass a kinship care provision, with an addition that would allow placement of a child with relatives as an alternative to welfare.

Sincerely yours,
Your name and address

Send a copy of your letter of postcard to CRC.

Welfare Reform Debate

Welfare Reform continues to be an engine that is running the Congressional train, with senators from large states wanting more welfare funds for their states than earlier welfare reform provisions provide for.

Senators from large states, including Kay Bailey Hutchison (R–TX) say their states would come up short on revenue when Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) is replaced by lump sum payments to the states.

The battle over Welfare Reform is far from over on the date this report is written.

Child support provisions are part of Welfare Reform bills on Capitol Hill. Those provisions include requirements that states revoke drivers' licenses, professional licenses, and recreational licenses for persons who owe child support.

Financial Child Support

S. 8. Called the "Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Parental Responsibility Act," this bill would provide grants for the establishment and operation of group homes for custodial parents under the age of 19 and their children. Indian tribes would also be eligible for funds for such adult–supervised group homes. Parents who are under 19 would be required to complete a high school education or its equivalent. The bill would also provide grants to combat teenage pregnancy, and provide a national clearinghouse on teenage pregnancy prevention programs. Sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D–ND), and other Senate Democrats. Referred to Finance Committee (202) 225–4515.

S. 456. To improve and strengthen the child support collection system. Would automate the interstate child support tracking system, improve locate information from interstate networks, increase paternity establishment, and authorize suspension of licenses and withholding of passports for non–payment of support. Contains grants to states for access and visitation programs. Sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley (D–N), co–sponsored by Sens. Rockefeller, Chaffee, Feinstein, Snowe, Lieberman, Dorgan and Kennedy. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources (202) 224–5375.

S. 442. To improve and strengthen the child support collection system. This bill, introduced by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R–ME) and Majority Leader Bob Dole (R–KS), is similar to S. 456 (see above), but it does not contain the provision for grants to the states for access and visitation programs. Sen. Snowe's phone number is (202) 224–5344.

S. 472, a bill to consolidate and expand Federal child care services to promote self sufficiency and support working families. Sponsored by Senator Chris Dodd (D–CT) and Ted Kennedy (D–MA). Referred to Committee on Labor and Human Resources (202) 224–5375.

S. 632, to create a national child custody database. The bill says that despite child custody jurisdictional laws designed to prevent parents attempting to obtain favorable custody rulings in other states, gaps still exist for confusion and differentiations by various state courts. The bill would confirm that a court of a state that has made a child custody determination continues as long as such state remains the residence of the child or of any contestant (which is in accord with the Uniform Child Custody

Continued on page 12

Bills and Resolutions

Continued from page 11

Jurisdiction Act–the UCCJA). The bill would also establish a national child custody registry—a national network to allow state courts to identify every proceeding relating to child custody proceedings filed before any U.S. court or any state court. The bill would also say it is the sense of the Senate that supervised visitation centers be established for children who have been removed from their parents as a result of abuse or neglect. Sponsored by Sen. Pete Domenici (D–NM), and other Senate Democrats. Referred to Judiciary Committee (202) 224–5225.

Numerous child support bills were introduced in Congress, include H.R. 95, introduced by Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D–CT), and H.R. 195, introduced by Rep. Marge Roukema (R–NJ), but most of them are similar to S. 456 (above). For the moment, the only child support bill moving forward in Congress is the one that is part of the welfare reform bill. See elsewhere in this issue.

Commission Recommends Mediation

John Guidubaldi, Ph.D. and Bill Harrington, who are members of the National Commission on Child and Family Welfare, have helped to win important recommendations by the commission. including proposals:

* that states use mediation in child custody cases, and
* that states utilize parenting plans for separating parents.

The effort to get the Commission to support a presumption for joint custody, however, did not obtain a majority vote in recent meetings.

The Commission, whose 15 members were appointed by Congress and the President, will meet in mid–September to hammer out its final report. The commission expires on September 30 after a one–year term.

The Commission's proposals would have to be enacted by Congress in order to become law.

CRC Guideline Available

Copies of the model child support guideline prepared by CRC that is based on a child having two parents are still available from the federal government.

This is the first time that the federal government has ever distributed a guideline that takes into account the direct expenditures on a child by the non–custodial parent.

To obtain a copy of the federal publication, phone (202) 401–9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation", as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5.00 for CRC members, and $10.00 for non–members, including shipping and handling.

If you would like to contact Don Bieniewicz, author of the guideline, for his assistance in getting this guideline adopted in the states, write him at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, or phone 703–255–0837 (evenings).

Writer Seeking Stories

A writer is seeking stories from:

* children (preferably teenagers) who have been abused, but their perpetrators eluded justice; and
* children who were abused while in state custody, or who were coerced to tell things that never happened to them.

"Names of children will be changed to protect their innocence," said Dean Tong, author of the book entitled Don't Blame Me, Daddy. The children and/or their parents are asked to phone Tong collect at 813–971–5666 and to ask for a questionnaire which they can then complete and mail back to him.

Dr. Carl Mau Dies

Dr. Carl H. Mau, Jr., 72, who was general secretary to the Lutheran World Federation from 1974 to 1985 in Geneva, Switzerland, and who was an advisor to CRC, died of cancer March 30, 1995, at his home in Washington state.

As general secretary, Dr. Mau promoted contact with previously isolated Lutheran communities around the world, including those located in the Soviet Union. He travelled widely, serving the estimated 60 million Lutherans worldwide; and he also enjoyed being a simple pastor, a ministry he performed several times in his long career.

"Dr. Mau was an accessible, caring man, who helped many people, and CRC," said CRC President David L. Levy. "We miss him."

John Prior, former CRC Director of Information Services, introduced Dr. Mau to CRC several years ago.

Advertisement

Blue–Green Algae

So long, Geritol; Welcome to the Algae Generation -- headline on Washington Post story about Blue-Green algae August 20, 1995.

Help CRC, your body and your income. For the health and energy you want, call CRC for a free tape explaining Cell–Tech, a company whose sales and profits tripled in the past 12 months.

The most commonly reported benefits people experience eating a super Blue-Green algae (a wild, whole food, 100 percent vegetarian) are enhanced mental focus and agility, greater vitality and stamina, effortless weight loss, and ability to handle stress with calm.

Write or phone CRC for your free tape today! Cell–Tech donates a portion of its proceeds to children in need, from Cambodia to south-central Los-Angeles.

In the Courts

The following was a front page article by reporter Joe Sullivan in the New York Times, July 11, 1995

Child Support Case

Trenton, July 10 – Upholding New Jersey's child–support guidelines, the state Supreme Court today rejected a divorced father's argument that his support payments should be reduced so he can spend the money as he sees fit when he is caring for his children.

The ruling today, in a case involving James Pascale, a divorced father of three who pays $1,150 a month in child support, overturns a ruling by a state appellate court. More broadly, it runs counter to a trend in other jurisdictions to develop equations for child support that take into account both the time and the money contributed by a parent that does not have primary responsibility for maintaining the home for the children.

In a unanimous 37–page opinion, the court upheld the state's current guidelines, saying the needs of children had to be put first. "Child support is the right of the child and the responsibility of both parents, not a chip won or lost by the custodial parent from the noncustodial parent during divorce," said the opinion written by Justice Marie L. Garibaldi.

The court said that the parent who has custody of the children must be able to make day-to-day decisions about money without endless discussions with the other parent.

Elsewhere, courts have reached different conclusions. David L. Levy, president of the Children's Rights Council, a national advocacy group in Washington, said that last week the Virginia Child Support Commission recommended reducing the amount of child support by a parent who does not live with the children based on how much time the parent spends with them.

In addition, he said, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services has published a pamphlet, "Child Support Guidelines: the Next Generation," which he said incorporates the council's recommendation for adopting a graduated system in payments for parents who do not live with the children depending on their level of involvement with them.

"That system envisions the child having two parents, which is essentially what Mr. Pascale was arguing," Mr. Levy said.

And in New Jersey, the ruling today came even as the Supreme Court is awaiting a report by the subcommittee on child support of the court's Family Practice Committee, which has reviewed the child–support guidelines every two years since 1988.

The aim is to base child–support formulas on more accurate estimates of child–rearing costs and to increase the upper limit of those formulas, the court said.

Mr. Pascale, 43, is the Princeton Township Administrator, and makes $76,000 annually. Debra Pascale, 42, who lives in Plainesboro, makes $52,200 as a Human Resources Manager at Liposome Company, Inc. She has custody of their children, a 10–year–old son and twin 8–year–old daughters, and the responsibility for maintaining a home for them.

According to information provided to the court during a hearing earlier this year, the children are cared for by a babysitter after school until about 6 p.m. when their mother comes home or their father comes to pick them up. Mr. Pascale has the children on Wednesday and Thursday evenings until 8:30 p.m. when he brings them home and Mrs.Pascale helps them with their homework and puts them to bed. She gets them off to school in the morning and the routine repeats itself.

Mr. Pascale, who rented an apartment in East Windsor Township after the divorce, also picks up the children on Friday nights and they stay with him until 6 p.m. on Saturdays. The children attend day camp during the summer and divide their time between their parents.

The Appellate Division of Superior Court, the state's second highest court, ruled that this arrangement, part of a 1992 consent decree signed by the Pascales, did not fit the definition of a traditional child custody agreement, and was thus was not covered by the state's child–support guidelines. Today the Supreme Court disagreed.

Not unexpectedly, lawyers for Mr. Pascale criticized today's ruling while lawyers for Mrs. Pascale praised it.

Saying that fathers are "emasculated" by the current system, Mr. Pascale's lawyer, Bruce L. Afran, said: "The court had a chance to make great strides in family law and threw it away. It has sent a contrary precedent that is destructive of family life in the state."

But Laura M. LeWinn, lawyer for Mrs. Pascale, called today's decision "a great victory for the child support guidelines."

(Reprinted with permission)

The Prost–Green Case

In a highly publicized child custody case in Washington, D.C., a mother, Sharon Prost, who works as a legislative aide to Sen. Orrin Hatch (R–UT), lost custody to her former husband, Ken Green. Judge Harriet Taylor gave Green custody in a case that has been featured in national media, include ABC's 20/20.

Some advocacy groups said that Prost lost custody to the father because of her heavy work schedule on Capitol Hill.

CRC looked at the case from the standpoint of a child needing two actively involved parents. CRC filed an amicus (Friend of the Court) brief with the consent of both parents to recognize the value of two actively involved parents in the form of joint custody (shared parenting).

In its decision, the D.C. Court of Appeals picked up and endorsed CRC's concept that the courts should encourage cooperative and active involvement of both parents. The appeals court then remanded the case back to the trial court for further study.

Litigation is continuing in the case.

(Note: if your case will be on appeal, and you wish CRC to consider filing a Friend of the Court brief, contact CRC as soon as possible. Our resources are limited, but we can occasionally file such briefs on a reduced–fee basis).

Around the Country

Canada

Women as Guilty of Child Abuse as Men, Says Senator

Under attack for saying that women are as guilty as men for abusing children and turning them into violent adults, a black woman senator who founded two Toronto shelters for battered women and children is fighting back with statistics.

The Canadian Senator, Anne Cools, sparked a furor on International Women's Day with her statement that mothers need to accept some of the blame for male aggression and the creation of violent sex offenders.

Undeterred by the backlash of criticism that followed, she delivered an impassioned speech to the Canadian Senate in late March saying that "feminist ideologues" have obscured the role that women play in domestic violence and have perpetuated a myth that men are almost exclusively to blame for child abuse.

"These loud persons, in their feminine aggression, are unaware that they have merely transported that peculiar aggression from the home to the workplace, even in politics," she said.

"The term violence against women is a term that has taken currency only in recent years. It camouflages the real issue of aggression and all its ugliness."

Ms. Cools has increasingly cited statistics and studies from academics across Canada and the U.S.

An account in the National News of Canada, April 4, by Social Policy Reporter Margaret Philp said "In fact, much of the extensive research on the subject goes beyond Ms. Cool's contention that women are equally at fault for abusing children, showing that mothers are injuring their children far more often than fathers."

Philp reported that

* "One U.S. study made a link between physically abusive mothers and violent sex murderers.
* "Another survey, of female prison inmates convicted of murder over four decades, showed that 39 percent were incarcerated for killing their children.
* "And a study of 100 child deaths by retired McMaster University professor of social work Cyril Greenland indicated that mothers murdered their children in 39 cases, while fathers were guilty in 13 cases."

Ms. Cools also cited research released in 1994 by Toronto's Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse. That study, which tracked 46,683 investigations of child abuse by Ontario's 54 children's aid societies, found that mothers committed acts of physical abuse in 39 percent of substantiated cases, while fathers were guilty 40 percent of the time. In investigations of child neglect, mothers ere the perpetrators in 85 percent of cases.

However, the author of the child abuse study, University of Toronto social work professor Nico Trocme, cautioned that child abuse statistics, even from his own study, can be misleading. While more children are injured by women than by men, he said the statistics can be explained by the fact that children are overwhelmingly in the care of their mothers.

"Yes, women do kill children more often than men. But women are in a situation of stress and isolation and economic dependency that is much greater for them than it is for men," said Trocme.

However, he welcomed Ms. Cools's efforts to rekindle debate over child abuse and condemned society's "total neglect of the female capacity to be aggressive, to a great loss to the debate and to women. I think that what she says needs to be put into the hopper for public debate," he said.

In addition to co-founding two Toronto shelters for battered women and children, Ms. Cools is a former National Parole board member, and became Canada's first black senator when she was appointed in 1984 by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

United States

Study Reports on Communication Problems

Many married men would rather do just about anything than talk about their marriage with their wives.

It seems that men also don't talk about divorce plans, either. A new study of 384 couples who sought marital therapy at a Brigham Young University clinic and a second sample of 241 couples in three states found women were much more likely than men to discuss their intention to divorce or separate with their spouses and friends.

And it's not just talk: Women's negative views about their marriage are more reliable indicators of eventual divorce than their husbands' expressions of marital upset, reported Russell Crane, professor of family sciences at BYU, in The American Journal of Family Therapy.

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Chapter News

Maryland
Neutral Drop–Off

Parents will be able to drop off and pick up their children at a neutral site outside Washington, D.C., thanks to a program being established between the Circuit Court of Prince George's County, Maryland, and CRC of Maryland.

Under the program, CRC members will supervise the pick–up and drop–off of children of separated and divorced parents, according to the terms of their court–ordered access/visitation schedules.

Most of the transfers will take place Friday evenings and Sunday evenings at a local church, said Harvey Walden, CRC coordinator for Maryland.

Circuit Court Administrative Judge Steven I. Platt suggested that CRC handle the details of the program.

Walden said he is modeling the neutral drop and pick up after the on–going successful program initiated by Dick Woods of Des Moines, Iowa.

Nebraska
Task Force; License Revocation

Gov Ben Nelson has appointed a 17 member task force to study problems of access related to child support, particularly the question of interference with visitation orders.

Three members of the task force are members of CRC of Nebraska—Bill Huerter, Mike Kaiser, and Terry Wolverton.

Other members of the task force include state Sen. Connie Day, task force chair, and Sen. John Lindsay, chairof the Judiciary Committee in Nebraska's unicameral (one–house) legislature.

On another note, CRC of Nebraska helped to defeat a bill to revoke licenses for persons who owe child support. The bill is expected to be re–introduced next year.

There was some support in the legislature for making license revocation balanced—that is, to revoke licenses for access interference as well as for child support arrearages, but the proposal did not pass.

Minnesota
Grand Parade

CRC Clowns it Up in Minnesota

The Children's Rights Council of Minnesota, Rochester chapter, participated in the annual Rochesterfest grand parade this summer. The parade is the final hoopla of a week–long city celebration. Six of the chapters' members and nine of their children dressed as clowns and passed out candy to a crowd estimated at 25,000. An extra effort was made to give each "cop a pop" in appreciation to officers who controlled the intersections of the two–mile long parade route during the hot summer's night the parade was held.

"All participating members and their children had a truly memorable and wonderful time, and we are looking forward to next year's parade to make CRC's presence even bigger and better," said Lauri Hassinger of the chapter, which is headed by Bruce Kaskubar.

Virginia
Child Support from Both Parents

Child support will be based on the contributions of both parents, under a recommendation by the Virginia Child Support Advisory Committee. Cindy Ewing, CRC coordinator in Virginia, and Murray Steinberg, president of the Richmond, VA CRC chapter, are members of the Committee which recommended the change to the current Virginia child support guideline.

The recommendation, which is expected to be adopted by the Virginia legislature in 1996, would replace Virginia's current child support formula with a new formula that allows variable costs (food, transportation, entertainment) to be allocated between the parents based on the income shares concept and the number of nights the children are with each parent. An additional adjustment would result when the non–custodial parent has the children at least 104 nights per year.

The committee estimated the variable costs and fixed costs each equal 40 percent of child support, with the remaining 20 percent of support to be spent at the discretion of the custodial parent.

The Advisory Committee also recommended:

- a refund to the non–custodial parent of his or her share of the child care federal tax credit. This would move Virginia into the ranks of most other states that require child care expenses be based on net (not gross) costs.
- authorizing the courts to order the release of tax dependency exemptions to the other parent, and to take into consideration each parent's marginal tax rates, so as to maximize the benefit to the family, e.g. if parent A has a 25 percent tax rate and parent B has a 15 percent tax rate, the judge could order the allocation to parent A, and then adjust child support accordingly, so each parent would benefit.

Ewing said this release of the exemption to the other parent must become statutory, because most Virginia judges erroneously believe they do not have the authority to make these kinds of adjustments.

One unfortunate decision by the Committee, said Ewing, would be to remove the self–support reserve for non–custodial parents. The custodial parent has such a reserve, but if this recommendation becomes law, Virginia will be the only state without a self–support reserve for non–custodial parents. The commission is made up of legislators, judges, the state child support director, attorneys, and advocacy groups.

Don Bieniewicz, the author of the CRC model child support guideline, gave a presentation to the Committee.

"Over–all, the changes recommended will result in a child support guideline that promotes a child's frequent and continuing contact with both parents," said Ewing.

Inside CRC

Ross visits CRC office

Judge David Gray Ross, the director of the federal child support office that has a $2 billion annual budget and staff around the country of 50,000, visited the CRC office on July 27, to share a brown bag lunch with CRC's interns.

Ross, who is recovering from a mild heart attack he had in May, shared an hour of talking with the interns about child support, and the importance to children of access and visitation, also.

Ross is the highest Clinton Administration official to visit CRC's office.

In November, 1994, CRC moved to an office with 800 square feet, double the size of its previous office, at the same address

CRC Book Distributed

Roy Nolan, organizer of CRC's new chapter in Oregon, purchased 100 copies of CRC's book, The Best Parent is Both Parents, for distribution to bookstores, libraries, and state legislators. Nolan ordered the copies at half price direct from the publisher, Hampton Roads Publishing Co in Norfolk, VA., phone 1-800-766-8009.

"The books provide an inexpensive way to get the CRC message out to people," said Nolan, especially as some bookstores and libraries allow him to list the name, address and phone number of the Oregon chapter in the copies he gives them.

Helen Devine, Ph.D., a clinical marriage and family therapist in Houston, was asked by two lawyers during a custody determination deposition which parent should have sole custody of the child. She answered by saying The Best Parent is Both Parents, and gave the attorneys a copy of the CRC book.

The Best Parent is Both Parents offers tips to parents and professionals on how to maintain involvement by both parents in the event of divorce. The 157-page book sells for $9.95. Ask your local bookstore for the book, or order from CRC. For orders from CRC, add $3.00 for postage and handling. Book orders should be addressed to CRC, 220 I Street N.E., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20002.

Donors are Appreciated

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drives that take place in all federal government offices each October.

CRC is listed as number 1513 in the Children's Charities of America listing, which is part of the Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contribute to CRC in the Washington, DC, and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contribute to CRC through their United Way in other parts of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC also appreciates each of you who contribute to CRC through the Global Focus credit card campaign run by MBNA American Bank, in Newark, Delaware. CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution direct to CRC, send it to CRC, 220 I Street, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20002.

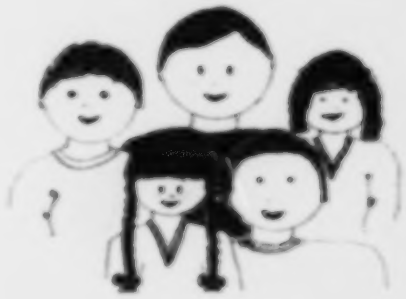
CRC on Internet

Thanks to Bruce Kaskubar, CRC coordinator in Minnesota, CRC is on the Internet Worldwide Web. For those of you with a browser, the home page's URL is http://www.vix.com/crc/aboutcrc.htm. Bruce would like to field questions from individuals, as well as members of other groups who are interested in CRC.

Intellectual Property Protection

CRC offers special thanks to Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children." Charlie is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley and Ruggiero, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Blended Family Cards Greetings for All



CNN, Woman's Day magazine, and other media are publicizing "Blended Families" greeting cards that acknowledge non-traditional relationships such as the step parent-child, siblings, grandparents and divorced couples and their families.

The brightly-colored cards, usually featuring pictures of people on their covers, are inscribed with such messages as "Combining our families takes love, patience and understanding. Marriages made us 'in-laws', but divorce doesn't make us 'out laws.'"

Sheila Brayman-Borgese, president of SBB Ink in New Jersey, who created the cards, believes they fill the niche of divorce that none of the large greeting card companies have tackled on a big scale.

Brayman-Borgese is a mother, stepmother, and former National President of Mothers Without Custody. She has been an advisor to CRC, and is donating a portion of her sales to CRC.

The cards may be ordered from Brayman-Borgese by writing to her at 49 Ellsworth Drive, West Windsor, New Jersey 08691, Phone (609) 936-0204.

Chapters Exist in 30 States

Nolan

With the opening of a chapter in Oregon, CRC is now represented in 30 states. The coordinator of the new Oregon chapter is Roy Nolan, a biomedical equipment technician in Portland and a child of divorce, who has attended three CRC conferences. "CRC has tremendous resources, and we are trying to get the word out to legislators, judges, and everyone else in Oregon", said Nolan.

The new coordinator of the Kentucky chapter is Bradley Bell, a student at Thomas More College, who spent the summer of 1995 working at the White House. Bell also worked part–time at a law firm while attending college and is the first college student to be a CRC state coordinator.

If you live in a state where there is a CRC chapter, we urge you to join the chapter. In this way, you will be networking with a chapter and national CRC to reform custody laws and attitudes around the country. By becoming a member of the chapter, you also become a member of national CRC.

Bell

Note: CRC's name is protected by federal trademark law.

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MWOC)
Jennifer Isham, president
P.O. Box 27417
Houston, TX 77227–7419
1–800–457–MWOC
Joint membership in MWOC and CRC: $35.00 a year

Parents Without Partners (PWP)
Linda Napolitano, president
401 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
312–644–6610
Members of PWP join CRC for only $20.00 a year.

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
Kevin Ricker, president
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 212
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 477–7837
Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

*When you join any of the above organizations, ask them to send $20.00 to CRC for your joint membership.

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E.D. Wilson, coordinator
CRC of Alabama
19993 Thompson Mill Road
Pinehope, AL 36532
(205) 828–0466

Alaska
Gary Maxwell, coordinator
CRC of Alaska
P.O. Box 92083
Anchorage, AK 99509–2083
(907) 277–1273

Arkansas
Dwayne Hall, coordinator
CRC of Arkansas
505 E. 25th St.
Texarkana, AR 75502
(903) 793–4994

California
Patricia Gribbin, coordinator
CRC of California, Sacramento chapter
P.O. Box 60811
Sacramento, CA 95860
(916) 635–2590

Ivy Walker, chair
CRC of California, Solano Chapter
P.O. Box 795
Suisun City, CA 94585
(707) 449–8380

Colorado
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CRC of Colorado
3150 Troutrop Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80917–3318
719/597–6AME

Connecticut
Bob Adkins, president
Divorced Men's Assn. of CT
P.O. Box 360270
E. Hartford, CT 06136–0270
(203) 568–7762

Eleanora Dreckel, president
Mothers Protecting Children
P.O. Box 195
Ansonia, CT 06401
(203) 734–1328

Delaware
Bill Bartell, coordinator
CRC of Delaware
P.O. Box 182
Bethel, DE 19931
(302) 875–7353
James Morning, president
(302) 734–8522

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CRC of Southwest Florida
27 Possum Paw Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33413
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(813) 722–8688
Peter Blum, assistant state coordinator
(407) 395–5512

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(404) 928–7110

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CRC of Illinois
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Pekin, IL 61555–0786
(309) 697–3235

Indiana
David Dinn, coordinator
CRC of Indiana
3625 N. Meridian, Suite 202
Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 925–5433

Grandparent Rights in New Strength (G.R.I.N.S.)
Ray and Ray Berryhill, co–directors
0889 CR 5
Corunna, Indiana 46730
(219) 281–2384

Iowa - See Nebraska/Iowa

Kansas/Missouri
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CRC of Kansas/Missouri
5916 Mission Road
Fairway, KS 66205–2721
(913) 831–0190

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Bradley Bell, coordinator
CRC of Kentucky
335 Thomas More Parkway
Thomas More College
Crestview Hills, KY 40017
(502) 241–7944

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CRC of Maryland
617 Pershing Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 588–0262

Massachusetts
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CRC of Cape Cod
1 Emily's Lane
Sandwich, MA 02563
(508) 420–1701

Concerned Fathers of Massachusetts, Inc.
P.O. Box 2768
Springfield, MA 01101–2768
(413) 736–7432

George Kelly, chairman

Michigan
Barbara Toth, president
CRC of Michigan
Parents and Grandparents Together
PO Box 653
Edmore, MI 48829
(517) 427–5770

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CRC of Minnesota
5905 Clinton Road N.
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 289–6221

Missouri - see Kansas/Missouri

Nebraska/Iowa
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CRC of Nebraska
P.O. Box 37387
Omaha, NE 68137–5387
(402) 330–3353

Michael Kauser, president
CRC of Nebraska–Lincoln chapter
P.O.Box 80414
Lincoln, NE 68010–8908
(402) 434–8908

Dick Woods, president
Fathers for Equal Rights, Inc.
3623 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 277–8789

New Jersey
Richard Martin, president
New Jersey Council for Children's Rights (NJCCR)
P.O. Box 316
Pluckemin, New Jersey 07978–0316
(201) 604–9323

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CRC of New York
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Statesville, NC 28677
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(412) 364–4916

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David Courson, coordinator
CRC of Tennessee
5914 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37209
(615) 327–8667

Texas
Children's Rights Coalition (A/Elsie)
P.O. Box 12961
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 499–8CRC

Vermont
Fred Tubbs, coordinator
Vermonters for Strong Families
RR1, Box 267A
Heartland, VT 05048
(802) 436–3089

Virginia
Cindy Ewing, coordinator
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CRC of Virginia, Tidewater chapter
P.O. Box 61245
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(804) 463–KIDS

Murray Sitesberg, president
Family Resolution Council
10210 Pepperhill Lane
Richmond, VA 23233
(804) 740–9889

Paul Robinson, president
Fathers United for Equal Rights and Women's Coalition
P.O. Box 1323
Arlington, VA 22210–1323
(703) 451–8580

Barry Young, president
CRC of Virginia, Roanoke Valley chapter
433 Howard Drive
Salem, VA 24153
(703) 382–0150

For development of chapters in states:
- west of the Mississippi that do not yet have any CRC chapters, contact chapter coordinator Eric Anderson, 12103 Scribe Drive, Austin, TX 78759, phone (512) 836–6621
- east of the Mississippi that do not yet have CRC chapters, contact chapter coordinator Michael Ewing, 3029 Yokima Road, Chesapeake, VA 23325, phone (804) 543–4993.

Ask Messrs. Ewing or Anderson for a copy of the 100–page CRC booklet that explains everything you want to know about affiliation. Enclose $10.00 for photocopying and postage.

To form additional chapters in states that already have one or more chapters, contact the state coordinator or existing state chapter head listed above.

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CRC's General Counsel

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